

THE WORKS OF SIR THOMAS MALORY

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SIR TRISTRAM DE LYONES
III–XV

[*Winchester MS., ff. 187^o–346^o;
Caxton, Books IX–XII*]

III

LA COTE MALE TAYLE

[*Winchester MS., ff. 187v–195v;*
Caxton, Book IX, chs. 1–9]

CAXTON'S RUBRICS

1. How a yonge man came into the courte of kyng Arthur and how syr Kaye called hym in scorne La Cote Male Tayle.
2. How a damoysel came into the courte and desyred a knyght to take on hym an enquest which La Cote Male Tayle emprised.
3. How Le Cote Male Tayle overthrewe syr Dagonet, the kynges fole, and of the rebuke that he had of the damoysel.
4. How Le Cote Male Tayle fought ayenst an hondred knyghtes, and how he escaped† by the meane of a lady.
5. How syr Launcelot cam to the courte and herde of La Cote Male Tayle, and how he folowed after hym, and how La Cote Male Tayle was prysoner.
6. How syr Launcelot faught wyth six knyghtes and after wyth syr Bryan, and how he delyverd the prysoners.
7. How syr Launcelot mette wyth the damoysel named Maledysaunt, and named hyr the Damoysel Bien Pensaunt.
8. How Le Cote Male Tayle was taken prysoner and after rescowed by syr Launcelot, and how syr Launcelot overcam four brethren.
9. How syr Launcelot maad Le Cote Mayle lord of the castel of Pendragon, and after was made knyght of the Rounde Table.

† S esscaped

HERE LEVYTH OF THE TALE OF SIR LAMEROK AND OF SYR
TRYSTRAMYS, AND HERE BEGYNNYTH THE TALE OF SYR LA
COTE MALE TAYLE THAT WAS A GOOD KNYGHT

TO the courte of kynge Arthure there cam a yonge man (1)
bygly made, and he was rychely beseyne, and he desyred
to be made a knyght of the kynges. But his overgarmente
-sate overthwartely, howbeit hit was ryche clothe of golde.

‘What is youre name?’ seyde kynge Arthure.

187^v

‘Sir, my name is Br[e]wnor le Noyre, and within shorte
space ye shall know that I am comyn of goode kynne.’

10

‘Hit may well be,’ seyde sir Kay the Senesciall, ‘but in
mokkynge ye shall be called “La Cote Male Tayle”, that is
as muche to sey ‘The Evyll-Shapyn Cote’.

‘Hit is a grete thynge that thou askyste,’ seyde the kynge.
‘But for what cause weryst thou that ryche cote?’

15

‘Hit is for som cause, sir,’ he answerde. ‘I had a fathir, a
noble knyght, and as he rode an-huntyng uppon a day hit
happed hym to ley hym downe to slepe, and there cam a
knyght that had bene longe his enemy. And whan he saw
he was faste on slepe he all to-hew hym, and thys same cote 20
had my fadir on that tyme. And that makyth this coote
sytte so evyll uppon me, for the strokes be on hit as I founde
hit, and never shall hit be amendid for me. Thus, to
have my fadyrs deth in remembraunce, I were this coote
tyll I be revenged. And because ye ar called the moste 25
nobelyst kynge of the worlde, I com to you to make me a
knyght.’

‘Sir,’ seyde sir Lamerok and sir Gaheris, ‘hit were well
done to make hym knyght, for hym besemyth well of persone
and of countenaunce that he shall preve a good knyght and 30
a myghty. For, sir, and ye be remembird, evyn suche one
was sir Launcelot whan he cam fyrist into this courte, and
full fewe of us knew from whens he cam. And now is he

1 C leue we of 2 C the historye of 3 that was a good knyght *not in C. Cf.*
p. 45x 29-31 4 C At the Courte 6 C the kyng 9 C Syre saide he my name
is Breunor le noyre 11-12 C Seneschal but in mockage 14-15 C kyng And
for 15-16 C cote telle me for I can wel thynke for somme cause hit is Syre he
17 C on huntyng 21 C on the same tyme 22 C ben on 23 C shalle
be 26 C you that ye shold make 30-1 C good man and a good knyght

preved the ſinan of moſte worſhyp in the worlde, and all your courte and Rounde Table is by ſir Launcelot worſhyppe and amended, more than by ony knyght lyvynge.'

'That is trouthe,' ſeyde the kynge, 'and to-morow at youre reuerte I ſhall make hym knyght.'

So on the morne there was an harte founden, and thydir rode kyng Arthur wylt a company of his knyghtes to ſle that herte. And this yonge man that ſir Kay named La Cote

188^r Male Tayle was there lefftē behynde wylt quene Gwenyvere

10 And by a ſuddeyne adventure there was an horryble lyon kepte in a towre of ſtoon, and he brake lowſe and cam huryng before the quene and her knyghtes. And whan the quene ſaw the lyon ſhe cryed oute and fledde and prayed hir knyghtes to reſcow her. And there was none but twelve
15 knyghtes that abode, and all the other fledde. Then ſeyde La Cote Male Tayle,

'Now I ſe that all cowherde knyghtes be nat dede,' and therewithall he drew his ſwerde and dressed hym before the lyon. And that lyon gaped wyde and cam uppon hym

20 rawmpyng to have ſlayne hym, and he agayne smote hym in the myddys of the hede, that hit claff in ſundir and ſo dayſhed downe to the erthe.

And anone hit was tolde the quene how the yong ma[n] that ſir Kay named La Cote Male Tayle had ſlayne the lyon,

25 and anone with that the kynge com home and the quene tolde hym of that adventure. He was well pleased and ſeyde,

'Upon payne of myne hede, he ſhall preve a noble man and feytheſfull and trewe of his promyſe!' And ſo forthe-withall the kynge made hym knyght.

30 'Now, ſir,' ſeyde this yonge knyght, 'I requyre you and all the knyghtes of the courte that ye calle me none other name but La Cote Mele Tayle: insomuche that ſir Kay hath ſo named me, ſo woll I be called.'

'I aſſente me thereto,' ſeyde the kynge.

2 C and alle your Round 3 C now lyuynge 6 C the morou there 11 C
 a ſtronge Toure of ſtone and it happened that he at that tyme brake 14-15 C
 none of hem alle but twelue that abode 17 C ben not 20 C he thenne smote
 21 C myddes 5 mydde 21-2 C hede ſuche a myghty ſtroke that it clafe his
 hede in ſonder and daffed to the erthe 23 W yong mat 24 C yonge man
 C* named by ſcorne La cote 28 C and a feythful Knyghte and true 31 C of
 yourre courte 34 C me wel therto

• And so the same day there cam a damesell into the courte, (2)
and she brought wylth her a grete blacke shylde with a whyght
honde in the myddis holdynge a swerde, and other pyctoure
was there none in that shylde. Whan kynge Arthure saw her
he asked her from whens she cam and what she wolde.

‘Sir,’ she seyde, ‘I have rydden longe and many a day with
this shylde many wayes, and for this cause I am com to youre
courte: for there was a good knyght that ought this shylde,
and this knyght had undirtake a grete dede of armys to 188^v
encheve hit. And so by myssfortune another stronge 10
knyght mette with hym by suddeyn aventure, and there
they fought longe, and aythir wounded othir passynge sore,
and they were so wery that they lefft that batayle on evyn
honde. So this knyght that ought the shylde sawe none other
way but he muste dye, and than he commaunded me to bere 15
this shylde to the courte of kyng Arthure, he requyrynge and
prayynge som good knyght to take his shylde, and that he
wolde fulfylle the queste that he was in.’

‘Now what sey ye to this queste?’ seyde kynge Arthure.
‘Is there here ony of you that woll take uppon you to welde 20
this shylde?’

Than was there nat one that wolde speke a worde. Than
sir Kay toke the shylde in his hondis and lyfft hit up.

‘Sir knyght,’ seyde the damesell, ‘what is your name?’

‘Wete you well my name is sir Kay the Seneschall that 25
wydewhere is knowyn.’

‘Sir,’ seyde the damesell, ‘lay downe that shylde, for wyte
thou well hit fallyth nat for you, for he muste be abettir
knyght than ye that shall welde this chylde.’

‘Damesell,’ seyde sir Kay, ‘I toke youre shylde nat to that 30
entente. But go whoso go woll, for I woll nat go with you.’

Than the damesell stood stylly a grete whyle and behylde
many of the knyghtes. Than spake this yonge knyght La
Cote Male Tayle and seyde,

‘Fayre damesell, I woll take this shylde and the adventure 35

1 C Capitulum secundum Thenne that same 3 and *not in C* 7 for *not in C*

10 C soo it myssfortune hym another 13 on *not in C* 14 C this shelde

20 C you here that wille take vpon hym 22 C one word 23 and lyfft hit

up *not in C†* 30-1 C* kay wete ye wel I toke this sheld in my handes by your

leue for to behold it not to that entent but goo where someuer thou wilt for I

33 C spak the knyght 34 and seyde *not in C* 35 C the shelde

upon me, and I wiste whothirward my journey myght be. For because I was this day made knyght I wolde take this adventure uppon me.'

'What is youre name, fayre yonge man?' seyde the 5 damesell.

'My name is,' he seyde, 'La Cote Male Tayle.'

'Well may thou be callyd so,' seyde the damesell, "'the knyght wyth the evyll-shapyn coote'! But and thou be so 189^r hardy to take on the to beare that shylde and to folowe me,

10 wete thou well thy skynne shall be as well hewyn as thy cote.'

'As for that,' seyde sir La Cote Male Tayle, 'whan I am so hewyn I woll aske you no salff to heale me withall!'

And forthwithall there com into the courte two squyers and brought hym grete horsis and his armoure and spearys.

15 And anone he was armed and toke his leve.

'Sir, I woll nat,' seyde the kynge, 'be my wyll that ye toke upon you this harde adventure.'

'Sir,' he seyde, 'this adventure is myne, and the fyrste that ever I toke uppon, and that woll I folow whatsomever com 20 of me.'

Than that damesell departed, and so sir La Cote Male Tayle faste folowed aftir. And within a whyle he overtoke the damesell, and anone she mysseseyde hym in the fowlyst maner.

(3) 25 Than sir Kay ordayned sir Dagonet, kynge Arthurs foole, to folow aftir La Cote Male Tayle; and there sir Kay ordayned that sir Dagonet was horsed and armed, and bade hym folow sir La Cote Male Tayle and profyr hym to juste. And so he ded, and whan he sawe La Cote Male Tayle he 30 cryed and bade make hym redy to juste. So sir La Cote Male Tayle smote sir Dagonet ovir his horse croupyr.

Than the damesell mocked La Cote Male Tayle and seyde,

'Fye for shame! Now arte thou shamed in kynge Arthurs courte, whan they sende a foole to have ado with the, and 35 specially at thy fyrste justys.'

1 *W* the adventure uppon me what and I wiste whothirward C that aduenture
vpon me soot^t I wyst I shold knowe^t wheder ward (see note) 6 C said he 7 C
mayst thou 9 C vpon the 11 sir not in C 12 C no value 14 C
his speres 16 Sir not in C C I wold not by my will said the kynge 17 C
that hard 18 C said he W hthis 21 so sir not in C 28 sir not in C
30 C badde hym make 31 W croupyn (n for r) 33 kynge not in C

Thus she rode longe and chydde. And so within a whyle there cam sir Bleoberys, the good knyght, and there he justed with sir La Cote Male Tayle. And there syr Bleoberys smote hym so sore that horse and all felle to the erthe. Than sir La Cote Male Tayle arose up lyghtly and dressed his shylde and drew his swerde, and a wolde have done batayle to the utraunce, for he was woode wroth.

'Nat so,' seyde Bleoberys de Ganys, 'as at this tyme I woll nat fyght upon foote.'

Than the damesell Maledysaunte rebuked hym in the 10 fowlest maner and bade hym 'turne agayne, cowarde!'

'A, damesell,' seyde he, 'I pray you of mercy to myssesay me no more, for my gryff is inow, though ye gryff me no more. Yet I calle me never the worse knyght, though a marys sonne hath fayled me, and also I counte myselff never the 15 worse man for a falle of sir Bleoberys.'

So thus he rode with her two dayes, and by fortune there he encountred wyth sir Palomydes, the noble knyght, and in the same wyse sir Palomydes served hym as ded sir Bleoberys toforehonde. Than seyde the damesell,

'What doste thou here in my felyship? For thou canste nat sytte no knyght nother wythstonde hym one buffete but yf hit were sir Dagonet.'

'A, fayre damesell, I am nat the worse to take a falle of sir Palomydes. And yett grete dysworshyp have I none, for 25 nother sir Bleoberys nother yett sir Palomydes woll not fyght with me on foote.'

'As for that,' seyde the damesell, 'wete you welle they have disdayne and scorne to alyght of their horsis to fyght with such a lewde knyght as thou arte.'

So in the meanewhyle there com sir Mordred, sir Gawaynes brother, and so he felle in felyshyp with the damesell Maledysaunte.

And than they com before the Castell Orgulus, and there

10-13 *W* (sidenote): How La Cote Male Tayle justed with sir Bleoberys and had a falle 12 *P* myssay 13 *R†* myssa 13 *C* ye gyue† me (see note) 14 Yet not in *C* 14 *C* whan a 15 *C* fayleth 16 *C* wers knyght 17-19 *C* there came sir Palomydes and encountred with hym and he in the same wyse serued hym 20-21 *C* to fore hand What dost thou here in my felauship saide the damoysel maledysaunt thou canst. 26 *C* wold not 28 *C* wete thou 29 *C* to lyghte of 32 *C* in the felauship 34 *C* Orgulous

was such a custom that there myght com no knyght by the castell but other he muste juste othir be presonere, othir at the leste to lose his horse and harneyse.

And there cam oute two knyghtes ayenste them, and sir Mordred justyd with the formyste, and that knyght of the castell smote sir Mordred downe of his horse. And than sir La Cote Male Tayle justed with that other, and ayther of hem smote downe other horsis to the erthe. And anone they avoyded their horsis and aythir of hem toke othirs-
10 horses.

And than sir La Cote Male Tayle rode unto that knyght
190^r that smote downe sir Mordred, and there La Cote Male Tayle wounded hym passynge sore and putte hym frome hys horse, and *<he>* lay as he had bene dede.

15 So he turned unto hym that mette hym afore, and he toke the flyght towarde the castell, and sir La Cote Male Tayle rode aftir hym into the Castell Orgulus, and there sir La Cote Male Tayle slew hym.

(4) And anone there cam an hondred knyghtys aboute hym,
20 and all assayled hym. And whan he sawe hys horse sholde be slayne he alyght and voyded his horse, and so put hym oute of the gate. And whan he had so done he hurled in amonge them and dressed his backe untyll a ladyes chambir wall, thynkyng hymselff that he hadde lever dye there with
25 worshyp than to abyde the rebukes of the Damesell Male-dysaunte.

And so in the meanetyme, as he stood and fought, that lady that hylde that chambir wente oute slyly at a posterne, and withoute the gatys she founde sir La Cote Male Tayle
30 his horse. And lyghtly she gate hym by the brydill and tyed hym to the posterne, and than she yode unto her chambir slyly agayne for to beholde how that one knyght faught ayenst an hondred knyghtes.

1 C myght no knyght come 2 C or be prysoner or at 3 C his harneis
 8-9 C smote other doune hors and alle to the erthe And whanne they auoyded their
 horses thenne eyther 11 sir *not in C* 12 C* and Iusted with hym And there
 13 C tayle hurtē & wounded 14 and lay *not in C†* 17 C Orgulous
 21 C* hors & putte the brydel vnder his feete and so put 23 C vnto 28 C
 lady whos was the chamber 28 C oute S out C at her posterne 29 sir
 not in C 29-30 C tayles hors 31 C she wente vnto 32 S knyght
 C knyghte

And whan she had beholde hym longe she wente to a wyndow behynde his backe and seyde,

'Thou knyght that fyghtyst wondirly well, but for all that at the laste thou muste nedys dye but yf thou can thorow thy myghty prouesse wynne unto yondir posterne: for there have I fastened th[y] horse to abyde the. But wete thou welle thou muste thynke on thy worshyp and thynke nat to dye, for thou mayste nat wynne unto that posterne withoute thou do nobely and myghtly.'

Whan sir La Cote Male Tayle harde her sey so he gryped ¹⁰ his swerde in his honde and put his shylde fayre before hym, and thorow the thyckyst pres he thryled thorow. And whan he cam to the porsterne he founde there redy four knyghtes, ¹¹ and at two the fyrste strokys he slew two of the knyghtes ¹² and the ¹⁹⁰ other fledge¹, and so he wanne his horse and rode frome them. ¹⁵

And all hit was rehersed in kynge Arthurs courte, how he slew twelve knyghtes within the Castell Orgulus.

And so he rode on his way, and in the meanewhyle the damesell seyde unto sir Mordred,

'I wene my foolyssh knyght be othir slayne or takyn ²⁰ presonere.'

And than were they ware and saw hym com rydynge, and whan he was com to them he tolde all how he had spedde and escaped in the disperte of all the castell, 'and som of the beste of hem woll telle no talys.'

'Thow gabbyst falsely,' seyde the damesell, 'that dare I make good! For as a foole and a dastarde to all knyghthode they have latte the passe.'

'That may ye preve,' seyde La Cote Male Tayle.

With that she sente a correour of hers that allway rode ³⁰ with her, and so he rode thydir lyghtly and spurred how and in what wyse that knyght ascaped oute of that castell. Than

³ C knyght thou fyghtest ⁶ Chave I ⁸ I haue ⁶ W there ¹¹ C
handes ⁸ put ^C putt ¹² C he thrullid thorou them And ¹³ C
posterne ¹⁴⁻¹⁵ C* slewe two of the knyghtes & the other fledge F (MS.
B.N. fr. 103 f. 102r col. 2): vient a une dez portes du chastel que quatre sergents
vouloient ja fermer. Et il leur vient a l'espee traite et fait semblant de les occire.
Et eux ourent tel paour qu'ilz ne l'oserten attendre, et cil passe outre ¹⁶ C alle
as it was it was ¹⁷ C Orgulous ²² C ware where he came ²⁴ C desperte
of them alle and ²⁶ C Thou lyest falsely ²⁷ C good but as a foole ³¹ C*
her for to knowe the trouth of this dede and soo ³¹⁻² C and asked how and in
what maner that la cote male tayle was escaped ³¹ W haw (*a for o*)

all the knyghtes cursed hym and seyde he was a fende and no man, 'for he hath slayne here twelve of oure beste knyghtis, and we went [unto] this day that hit had bene to muche for sir Trystrames de Lyones othir for sir Launcelot de Lake. And in dyspyte and magré of us all he is departed frome us.'

And so hir curroure com agayne and tolde the^o damesell all how sir La Cote Male Tayle spedde at the Castell Orgulus. Than she smote downe the hede and seyde but lytyll.

- 10 ‘Be my hede,’ seyde sir Mordred to the damesell, ‘ye ar gretly to blame so to rebuke hym, for I warne you playnly he is a good knyght, and I doute nat but he shall preve a noble man. But as yette he may nat sytte sure on horsebacke, for he that muste be a good horsemman hit muste com to usage 15 and excercise. But whan he commyth to the strokis of his swerde he is than noble and myghty. And that saw sir Bleoberys and sir Palomydes; for wete you well they were 191^r wylly men of warre, for they wolde know anone, whan they sye a yonge knyght, by his rydynge, how they were sure to 20 gyffe hym a falle frome his horse othir a grete buffett. But for the moste party they wyll nat lyght on foote with yonge knyghtes, for they ar myghtly and stronglye armed.

‘For in lyke wyse syr Launcelot du Lake, whan he was fyrste made knyght, he was oftyn put to the worse on horsebacke, but ever uppon foote he recoverde his renowne and slew and defowled many knyghtes of the Rounde Table. And therefore the rebukes that sir Launcelot ded unto many knyghtes causyth them t[hat] be men of prouesse to beware, for oftyn tyme I have seyne the olde preved knyghtes 30 rebuked and slayne by them that were but yonge begynnars.’

Thus they rode sure talkyng by the wey togydrys.

- (5) HERE THIS TALE OVERLEPYTH A WHYLE UNTO SIR LAUNCELOTT, that whan he was com to the courte of kynge Arthure

1 C said that he 3 C* wende vnto this had omitted in S 3-4 C for sir launcelot du lake or for sire Tristram de lyones 5-6 C* in despyte of vs alle he is departed from vs and maulgre oure hedes With this answer the currour departed and came to Maledysaunt his lady and told alle 7 C had spedde 8 C her heed but not in C 13 C knyghte but not yet 18 C men of armes and anone they knowe whan (S when) 25 C renomme 26 C defoyled C of the S os the 28 W them to be C* them that be 29 tyme not in C 32-3 C Here leue we of a whyle of this tale and speke we of sire Launcelot du lake Capitulum Quintum That whan

than harde he telle of the yonge knyghte sir La Cote Male Tayle, how he slew the lyon and how he toke uppon hym the adventures of the blacke shylde, whyche was named at that tyme the hardyest adventure of the worlde.

'So God me save!' seyde sir Launcelot unto many of his felowys. 'Hit was shame to all the good noble knyghtes to suffir suche a yonge knyght to take so hyghe adventure on hym for his distruccion. For I woll that ye wyte,' seyde sir Launcelot, 'that this damesell Maledysaunte hath borne that shylde many a day for to seche the moste preved ¹⁰ knyghtes. And that was she that sir Breunys Saunze Pité toke the shylde frome, and aftir sir Trystrames de Lyones rescowed that shylde frome hym and gaff hit to the damesell agayne, a lytyll afore that tyme that sir Trystrames faught with my nevew Blamoure de Ga[n]ys for a quarell that was ¹⁵ betwyxte the kynge of Irelonde and hym.' 191

Than many knyghtes were sory that sir La Cote Male Tayle was gone forthe to that adventure.

'Truly,' seyde sir Launcelot, 'I caste me to ryde aftir hym.' 20

And so within seven dayes sir Launcelot overtoke sir La Cote Male Tayle, and than he salewed hym and the damesell Maledysaunte. And whan sir Mordred saw Launcelot, than he lefft their felyship, and so sir Launcelot rode with hem all a day. And ever that damesell rebuked sir ²⁵ La Cote Male Tayle, and than sir Launcelot answerde for hym. Than she lefft of and rebuked sir Launcelot.

So thys meanetyme sir Trystramys sente by a damesell a lettir unto sir Launcelot, excusynge hym of the weddynge of Isod le Blaunce Maynes, and seyde in the lettir, as he was ³⁰ a trew knyght, he had never ado fleyshly with Isode le Blaunce Maynys. And passyng curteysly and jantely sir Trystrames wrote unto sir Launcelot, ever besechyng hym to be hys good frende and unto La Beall Isod of Cornwayle, and that sir Launcelot wolde excuse hym if that ever he saw ³⁵ her. And within shorte tyme, by the grace of God, sir

¹ sir not in C ²⁻³ C the aduenture of ³ C the whiche ⁶ good not in C
⁷ C take suche aduenture ¹¹ C saunce pyte ¹² C from her and after
 Tristram ¹⁵ C Blamore de Ganys ²¹⁻² C ouertook la ²⁵ sir not in C
³⁰ C Isoud le blanche maynys ³² C curtoisly & gently ^{36-p. 468, 1}
 C god said sir Tristram that

Trystramys seyd that he wolde speke with La Beall Isode
and with hym ryght hastly.

Than sir Launcelot departed frome the damesell and frome
sir La Cote Male Tayle for to oversé that lettir and to wryte
another lettir unto sir Trystram.

And in the meanewhyle sir La Cote Male Talorode with
the damesel untill they cam to a castell that hyght Pendragon..
And there were six knyghtes that stood afore hym and one of
them profirde to fyght or to juste with hym.

10 And so sir La Cote Male Tayle smote hym over hys horse
croupe. And than the fyve knyght[es] sette upon hym all
at onys with their spearys, and there they smote La Cote
Male Tay[le] downe horse and man. And than they ded
alyght suddeynly and sette their hondis upon hym all at
15 onys and toke hym presonere.

192r And on the morne sir Launcelot arose and delyverde the
damesell with lettirs unto sir Trystram, and than he toke hys
way aftir sir La Cote Male Tayle. And by the way uppon a
brydge there was a knyght that profirde sir Launcelot to
20 juste, and sir Launcelot smote hym downe. And than they
faught uppon foote a noble batayle togydirs and a myghty,
and at the laste sir Launcelot smote hym downe grovelynge
upon hys hondys and hys kneys. And than that knyght
yelded hym, and sir Launcelot resseyved hym fayre.

25 'Sir,' seyde the knyght, 'I requyre you telle me youre
name, for muche my harte yevith unto you.'

'Nay,' seyd sir Launcelot, 'as at thys tyme I woll nat telle
you my name onles that ye telle me youre name.'

30 'Sertaynly,' seyde the knyght, 'my name ys sir Neroeus,
that was made knyght of my lorde sir Launcelot du Lake.'

'A, sir Neroeus de Lyle!' seyde sir Launcelot, 'I am
ryght glad that ye ar proved a good knyght, for now wyte
you well my name ys sir Launcelot.'

35 'Alas!' seyde sir Neroeus, 'what have I done!' And
therewithall he felle flatlynge to his feete and wolde have

5 C Tristram de lyones 8 that not in C 9 to fyght or not in C C
with la cote male tayle 13 ded not in C 15 C* prysoner and soo ledde hym
vnto the castel & kepte hym as prysoner (probably a homoeoteleuton in W) 25 C
requyre the 28 Conles thenne that 29 C† Neroens (F Veroneus, Neroneus)
31 C A Neroeens 33 CLauncelot du lake 34 CNerouens de lyle 35 C
wold S would

kyste them, but sir Launcelot wolde nat suffir hym. And than aythir made grete joy of other, and than sir Neroeus tolde sir Launcelot that he sholde nat go by the Castell of Pendragon, 'for there ys a lorde, a myghty knyght, and many myghty knyghtes with hym, and thys nyght I harde sey that they toke a knyght presonere that rode with a damesell, and they sey he ys a knyght of the Rounde Table.'

'A,' seyde sir Launcelot, 'that knyght ys my felow, and (6) hym shall I rescowe and borow, or ellis lose my lyff therefore.'

And therewithall he rode faste tyll he cam before the 10 Castell of Pendrag[on. And] anone therewithall there cam six knyghtes, and all [made hem redy] to sette uppon sir Launcelot at onys. Than sir [Launcelot feautryd his] speare and smote the formyst, that he br[ake his bak in sonder], and three of them smote hym and three fa[yled]. And than sir 15 Launcelot] past thorow them, and lyghtly h[e torned in ageyne and smote] another knyght thorow the brest [and thorowoute the back] more than an elle, [and therewithall his speare brak. Soo than] all the remenaunte of the four k[nygthes drewe their swerdes and lasshed] at sir Launcelot, 20 and at every stroke sir Launcelot bestowed so his] strokis 192^v that at four strokis sundry they avoyded their sadyls passyngre sore wounded, and furthwithal he rode hurlynge into the castell.

And anone the lorde of that castell which was called sir 25 Bryan de Les Iles, .which was a noble man and a grete enemy to kynge Arthure, so within a whyle he was armed and on horsebacke. And than they feautred their spearis and hurled togydirs so strongly that bothe their horsys russhed to the erthe. And than they avoyded their sadyls and dressed 30 their shyldis and drew their swerdis and flowe togydirs as wood men, and there were many strokis a whyle.

At the laste sir Launcelot gaff sir Bryan such a buffete that he kneled uppon hys knees, and than sir Launcelot russhed upon hym with grete force and pulled of his helme. 35

¹ C not lete hym borow ^{not in C} ² C Nerouens ⁶ C prysoner yesterday that 9 and
C els I shalle lese 11-21 *The bottom corner of the*
leaf is torn in W 18 C thorou oute 23 W he rorde he omitted in S
²⁵ C the castel that was that tyme cleped 26 S and grete 31 C flange to
gyders 32 C* strokes even in a whyle 33 C gaf to sir 35 C rasshed
³⁵ C and with grete force he pulled

And whan sir Bryan sy that he sholde be slayne he yelded hym and put hym in hys mercy and in hys grace.

Than sir Launcelot made hym to delyver all hys prisoners that he had within hys castell, and therein sir Launcelot 5 founde of kynge Arthurs knyghtes thirty knyghtes and forty ladyes. And so he delyverde hem, and than he rode his way.

And anone as sir La Cote Male Tayle was delyverde, he gate his horse and hys harneyse and hys damesell Male-dysaunte.

10 The meanewhyle sir Neroveus, that sir Launcelot had foughptyn withall before at the brydge, he sente a damesell aftir sir Launcelot to wete how [he] *ha*d spedde at the castell of Pendragon. And than they in the [castell mervey]led what knyght he was that was there when [sir Bryan 15 and his] knyghtes delyverde all tho prisoners.

'Syr, [have ye no mervei]le,' seyde the damesell, 'for the beste [knyght in this world] was here and ded thys jurnay, and wyte [ye wel,' she said, '*h*it was sir Launcelot.'

Than was sir Bryan full glad, [and so was his lady and 20 al]l hys knyghtes, that he sholde wynne [them. And whan the dame]sell and sir La Cote Male Tayle [understood that *h*it was s*i*r La]uncelot that had rydden with hem [in fel(y)ship, and that she reme]mbirde her how she had 193^r rebuked hym and called hym cowarde, than she was passyng 25 hevy.

(7) So than they toke their horsis and rode forthe a greate pace aftir sir Launcelot, and within two myle they overtoke hym, and salewed hym and thanked hym. And anone the damesell cryed sir Launcelot mercy of hir evyll dede, and 30 seyyng, 'for now I know ye ar the floure of all knyghthode of the worlde, and sir Trystram departe hit even betw[e]ne you. For God knowith, be my good wyll,' seyde the damesell, 'that I have sought you, my lorde sir Launcelot, and sir Trystrams longe, and now I thanke God I have mette with 35 you. And onys at Camelot I mette with sir Trystrams, and

5-6 *C* of arthurs knyghtes thyrty and xl ladyes 7 sir not in *C* 10 *C*
 Neroueus 11-23 *The bottom corner of the leaf is torn in W* 13 *C*
 they within the 14 that was there not in *C*† 16 Syr not in *C* *W* seyde seyde
 20 *C* that suche a man shold 21 sir not in *C* 22-3 See note 24 *C* was
 she 26 greate not in *C* 30-2 *C* knowe the floure of alle knyghthode is
 departed euen bitwene sire Tristram and you 32 *b* my good wyll not in *C*

there he rescowed thys blacke shylde with the whyght honde holdyng a naked swerde that sir Brewnys Saunz Pité had takyn frome me.'

'Now, fayre damesell,' seyde sir Launcelot, 'who tolde you my name?' 5

'Sir,' seyde she, 'there cam a damesel frome a knyght that ye fought withall at a brydge, and she tolde [me] that youre name was sir Launcelot du Lake.'

'Blame have she therefore,' seyde he, 'but her lord, sir Neroveus, had tolde hir. But, damesell,' seyde sir Launcelot, 10
uppon thys covenante I woll ryde with you, so that ye wyll nat rebuke thys knyght sir La Cote Male Tayle no more, for he ys a good knyght, and I doute nat but he shall preve a noble man. And for hys sake and pité, that he sholde nat be destroyed, I folowed hym to succour hym in thys grete nede.' 15

'A, Jesu thanke you!' seyde the damesell, 'for now I woll sey unto you and to hym bothe, I rebuked hym never for none hate that I hated hym, but for grete love that I had to hym, for ever I supposed that he had bene to yonge and to tendur of ayge to take upon hym thys aventure. And 20 therefore be my wyll I wolde have dryvyn hym away for jelosy that I had of hys lyff. For hit may be no yonge knyghtes dede that shall enchyve thys adventure to the ende.'

'Perdél!' seyd sir Launcelot, 'hit ys well seyde of you! And where ye ar called the Damesell Maledysaunt, I• woll calle 25
you the Damesell Byeau-Pansaunte.'

And so they rode forth togydirs a grete whyle unto they 193^v
cam unto the contreye of Surluse, and there they founde a fayre vyllage wyth a stronge brydge lyke a fortresse. And whan sir Launcelot and they were at the brydge there sterte 30
forthe afore them of jantyllmen and yomen many that seyde,

'Fayre lordis! Ye may nat passe thys brydge and thys fortresse because of that blacke shylde that I se one of you beare, and therefore there shall nat passe but one of you at onys. Therefore chose you whych of you shall entir within 35
thys brydge fyrst.'

1 C ther 8 there 2 C Bruyns saunce 7 C told me your 9 C she
thenne said 10 C Neroueus 14 C noble knyght 18 C no hate
20 of ayge not in C† C these aduentures 24 C Perdieu said sir Launcelot
24 of you not in C 25 26 C damoysel 26 C Bien pensaun 27 togydirs
not in C 28 C came to the Bordoure of the contrey

Than sir Launcelot profird hymselfe firste to juste and entir within thys brydge.

‘Sir,’ seyde sir La Cote Male [Tayle], ‘I besech you to lette me entir within thys fortresse. And if I may sped well
5 I woll sende for you, and if hit so be that I be slayne, there hit goth. And if I be takyn presonere, than may you rescowe me.’

‘Sir, I am loth that ye sholde passe this passage first,’ seyde sir Launcelot.

10 ‘Sir,’ seyde sir La Cote Male Tayle, ‘I pray you lat me put my body in that adventure.’

‘Now go youre way,’ seyde sir Launcelot, ‘and Jesu be your spede!’

So he entird anone, and there mette with hym two
15 brethirne, the tone hyght sir Playne de Fors and that othir hyght sir Playne de Amoris. And anone they justed with La Cote Male Tayle, and sir La Cote Male Tayle smote downe sir Playne de Fors, and aftir he smote downe sir Playne de Amoris.

20 And than they dressed their shyldis and swerdys and bade sir La Cote Male Tayle alyght, and so he ded. And there was daysshynge and foynyngge with swerdis, and so they began to assayle othir full harde, and they gaff sir La Cote Male Tayle many grete woundis upon hed and breste and

25 upon shuldirs. And as he mygh[t] ever amonge he gaff sad strokis agayne, and than the two brethirne traced and tra-versed for to be of both hondis of sir La Cote Male Tale, but he by fyne forse and knyghtly proues gate hem afore hym. And whan he felte hym so wounded than he doubled

30 hys strokis and gaffe them so many woundis that he felde hem to the erthe, and wolde have slayne them had they nat

194^r yelded them.

1 juste and *not in C†* 3 sir *not in C* 5 Cyf it happened that 6 C And
yf soo be that I am a prysoner taken thenne 8 Sir *not in C* 8-10 C I am
lothe said sir launcelot to lete you passe this passage Syre said la cote 11 C this
aduenture 12-19 W (*sidenote*): How sir La Cote Male Tayle strake a-downe
sir Playne de Fors and sir Playne de Amoris 15 C force 16 P amours (o
and r oblittered in R) 16-17 C they mette with sir la cote 17 C and fyrste la cote
18 C force 19 C amours 20 C dressid them to their 18, 21 sir *not in C*
23-5 C assaile ful hard la cote male tayle and many grete woundes gaf hym vpon
his heed and vpon his brest and vpon his sholders 27 C* tayle 29 C
And thenne whan he felte hym self soo

And ryght so sir La Cote Male Tayle toke the beste horse that there was of them three, and so he rode forth hys way to the othir fortres and brydge. And there he mette with the thirde brother, hys name was sir Plenoryus, a full noble knyght, and there they justed togydirs, and aythir smote other downe, horse and man, to the erthe.

And than they avoyded their horsys and dressed their shyldis and swerdis, and than they gaff many sad strokis. And one whyle the one knyght was afore on the brydge, and another whyle the other. And thus they faught two owres ¹⁰ and more and never rested, and ever sir Launcelot and the damesell behylde them.

‘Alas!’ seyde the damesell, ‘my knyght fygħtthi passynge sore and overlonge.’

‘Now may ye se,’ seyde sir Launcelot, ‘that he ys a noble ¹⁵ knyght, for to considir hys firste batayle and his grevous woundis. And evyn forthwithall, so wounded as he ys, hit ys mervayle that he may endure thys longe batayle with that good knyght.’

Thys meanewhyle sir La Cote Male Tayle sanke ryght ²⁰ (8) downe upon the erthe, what forwounded and forbled he myght nat stonde. Than the tothir knyght had pyté off hym and seyde,

‘Fayre knyght, dismay you not, for had ye bene freysshe whan ye mette with me as I was, I wote well that I coude nat ²⁵ have endured you. And therefore, [for] youre noble dedys of armys, I shall shew to you kyndenes and jantilnes all that I may.’

And furthewithall thys noble knyght sir Plenoryus toke hym up in hys armys and ledde hym into hys towre. And ³⁰ than he commaunded hym the wyne and made to serch hym and to stop hys bledynge woundys.

‘Sir,’ seyde sir La Cote Mal Tayle, ‘withdraw you from me and hyghe you to yondir brydge agayne, for there woll mete with you another maner a knyght than ever ³⁵ was I.’

⁴ C broder whoos name ⁷⁻⁸ C and drewe their swerdeſ and gaf ¹⁸ W thyſ longe thys longe ²¹ C what forbled ²⁴ C fayr yonge knyghte ²⁵⁻⁶ C I shold not haue endured so longe as ye haue done and ²⁹ C Plenorius ²⁸⁻³³ W (*sidenote*): How sir Plenorius smote downe La Cote Male Tayle ³¹ P serche R sarche ³⁵ a *not in C*

'Why,' seyde sir Plenoryus, 'ys there behynde ony mo of youre felyship?'

'Ye, sir, wete you well there ys a muche bettir knyght than I am.'

'What ys hys name?' seyde sir Plenoryus.

'Sir, ye shall nat know for me.'

194^v 'Well,' seyde the knyght, 'he shall be encountird withall, whatsomever he be.'

And anone he herde a knyght calle that seyde,

10 'Sir Plenoryus, where arte thou? Othir thou muste delyver me that presoner that thou haste lad into thy towre, othir ellis com and do batayle with me!'

Than sir Plenoryus gate hys horse and cam, with a speare in hys honde, walopynge towarde sir Launcelot. And than 15 they began to feauter theire spearys, and cam togydir as thundir, and smote aythir othir so myghtly that their horsis felle downe undir them.

And than they avoyded their horsis and pulled oute their swerdis, and lyke too bullis they laysshed togydirs with grete 20 strokis and foynys. But ever sir Launcelot recoverde grounde upon hym, and sir Plenoryus traced to have gone aboute hym, but sir Launcelot wolde nat suffir that, but bare hym backer and backer tylle he cam nye hys towre gate. And than seyde sir Launcelot,

25 'I know you well for a good knyght, but wyte thou well thy lyff and deth ys in my honde, and therefore yelde the to me and thy presonere!'

But he answerde no worde, but strake myghtly upon sir Launcelotis helme, that the fyre sprange oute of hys yen. 30 Than sir Launcelot doubeled his strokes so thycke, and smote at hym so myghtly, that he made hym knele uppon his kneys. And therewithall sir Launcelot lepe uppon hym and pulled hym grovelynge downe.

Than sir Plenoryus yelded hym and hys towre and all his 35 prisoners at hys wylle. Than sir Launcelot receyved hym and toke hys trowthe.

1 sir *not in C* 1-3 C† is there another maner knyght behynde of your felauship
ye said la cote male tayle ther is 6 C ye shalle not knowe for me said la cote
male tayle 9 C Thenne sir Plenorius herd 23 C nyhye 25 C knowe the
29 W that the fyre sprange oute of hys helme that the fyre sprange oute of hys
yen Ceyen 32 C lepte 34 W and hys towre and hys towre

And than he rode to the tothir brydge, and there sir Launcelot justed with othir three of hys brethirn, that one hyght sir Pyllownes, and the othir hyght sir Pellogres, and the thirde hyght sir Pelaundris. And first upon horsebacke sir Launcelot smote hem doune, and aftirwarde he bete hem on foote and made them to yelde them unto hym.

And than he returned ayen unto sir Pleonoryus, and there he founde in hys preson kynge Carados of Scotlonde and many other knyghtes, and all they were delyverde. 195^r

And than sir La Cote Male Tale cam to sir Launcelot, and than sir Launcelot wolde have gyvyn hym all thys fortresse and the brydges. 10

'Nay, sir,' seyde La Cote Male Tayle, 'I woll nat have sir Plenoryus lyvelode. With that he wyll graunte you, my lorde sir Launcelot, to com unto kynge Arthurs house and 15 to be hys knyght and all hys brethirne, I woll pray you, my lorde, to latte hym have hys lyvelode.'

'I woll well,' seyde sir Launcelot, 'wyth thys, that [he] woll com to the courte of kyng Arthure and bycom hys man, and hys brethern fyve. And as for you, sir Plenoryus, I woll 20 undirtake,' seyde sir Launcelot, 'at the nexte feste, so there be a place voyde, that ye shall be knyght of the Rounde Table.'

'Sir,' seyde sir Plenoryus, 'at the nexte feste of Pentecoste I woll be at kynge Arthurs courte, and at that tymē I woll be 25 gyded and ruled as kynge Arthure and ye woll have me.'

Than sir Launcelot and sir La Cote Male Tayle reposed them there untill they were hole of hir woundis, and there they had myry chere and good reste and many good gamys, and there were many fayre ladyes. 30

And so in the meanewhyle cam sir Kay the Senesciall and (9) sir Brandiles, and anone they felyshipped with them, and so within ten dayes they departed, the knyghtes of kynge Arthurs courte, from thes fortres.

And as sir Launcelot cam by the Castell of Pendragon, 35

²⁻⁴ C the one hyght Pillounes and the other hyght Pellogris and the thyrdde sir Pellandris ⁷ ayen *not in C* ¹¹⁻¹² C alle these fortresses and these brydges

¹³ C Nay said ¹⁵ C Arthurs courte and ¹⁸⁻¹⁹ W that ye woll

²¹ C Launcelot ²⁵ kynge *not in C* ²⁸ C vnto the tymē
that sire la cote male tayle was hole of his woundes (that omitted in S) ³¹⁻² C
seneschal and sire Brandyles ³³⁻⁴ C tho knyghtes of Arthurs

there he put sir Bryan de Lese Iles from his londes, for because he wolde never be withholden with kynge Arthur.

And all the castell of Pendragon and all the londis thereof he gaff to sir La Cote Male Tayle. And than sir Launcelot sente for sir Neroveus that he made onys knyght, and he made hym to have all the rule of that castell and of that contrey undir sir La Cote Male Tayle. And so they rode unto kynge Arthurs courte all hole togydirs.

And at Pentecoste nexte folowynge there was sir Plenoryus, and sir La Cote Male Tayle was called otherwyse beright sir Brewne le Noyre. And bothe they were made knyghtes of the Rounde Table, and grete londis kynge Arthure gaff them.

195^v And there sir Breune le Noyre wedded that damesell Maledysaunte, and aftir she was called the lady Byeaue-Vyvante. But ever aftir for the more party he was called La Cote Male Tayle, and he preved a passyng noble knyght and a myghty, and many worshipfull dedys he ded aftir in hys lyff.

20 And sir Plenoryus preved a good knyght and was full of proues, and all the dayes of theyre lyff for the moste party they awayted uppon sir Launcelot.

And sir Plenoryus brethirne were ever knyghtes of kynge Arthurs, and also, as the Freynshe booke makith mencion, **25** sir La Cotē Male Tayle revenged the deth of hys fadir.

1-2 C for cause 3 C that castel 5 C Neroneus 7 C
 mayle tayle 8 kynge *not in C* 9 C al holy 10 was *not in C* 11 C
 Breunes le noyre bothe maade 14 C there Breune 14-15 C damoysell
 Maledysaunt 15-16 C called Beau viuante 18 C and myghty 20 C
 a noble knyght and ful 24 C Arthur 25 C auengyd his faders deth

IV

TRISTRAM'S MADNESS AND EXILE

[*Winchester MS., ff. 195^v-209^v;*
Caxton, Book IX, chs. 10-25]

CAXTON'S RUBRICS

10. How la Bele Isoude sente letters to syr Trystram by hir mayde Brangwayn, and of dyvers aventures of syr Trystram.
11. How syr Tristram mette with sir Lamerok de Gales, and how they faught and after accorded never to fyght togyders.
12. How syr Palomydes folowed the questyng beest and smote doun syr Trystram and syr Lamerock wyth one spere.
- 13-14.* How syr Lamerok mette wyth syr Melleagance and faught togydre for the beaulté of dame Guenever.
15. How syr Kaye mette wyth syr Trystram, and after of the shame spoken of the knyghtes of Cornewayl, and how they justed.
16. How kyng Arthur was brought into the Forest Peryllous, and how syr Trystram saved his lyf.
17. How syr Trystram came to La Beale Isoude, and how Kehydvous began to love Bele Isoude, and of a letter that Tristram fonde.
18. How syr Tristram departed fro Tyntagyl, and how he sorowed and was so longe in a forest tyl he was out of his mynde.
19. How syr Trystram sowsed Dagonet in a welle, and how Palamydes sente a damoysel to seche Trystram, and how Palamydes mette wyth kyng Mark.
20. How it was noysed how sir Trystram was dede, and how La Beale Isoude wolde have slain hymself.
21. How kyng Mark fonde syr Trystram naked and made hym to be borne home to Tyntagyl, and how he was there knownen by a brachet.
22. How kyng Marke by th'avys of his cunceyl bannysshed syr Trystram oute of Cornewayl the terme of ten yere.
23. How a damoysel sought helpe to helpe sir Launcelot ayenst thirty knyghtes, and how syr Trystram faught with them.
24. How syr Trystram and syr Launcelot came to a lodgynge where they must juste wyth two knyghtes.
25. How syr Trystram justed wyth syr Kaye and sir Sagramor le Desyrous, and how syr Gawayn torned syr Trystram fro Morgan le Fay.
26. How syr Trystram and syr Gauwain rode to have foughтен ayenst the thirty knyghtes, but they durst not come oute.

* *xiii omitted in C*

† *S lodgynge*

27. How damoysel Brangwayn fonde Trystram slepyng by a welle,
and how she delyverd letters to hym fro Bele Isoude.
28. How syr Trystram had a falle of syr Palomydes, and how Launce-
lot overthrewe two knyghtes.
29. How syr Launcelot justed with Palomydes and overthrewe hym,
and after he was assayled with twelve knyghtes.

NOw leve we here sir Launcelot du Lake and sir La (10),
Cote Male Tayle, and turne we unto sir Trystram
de Lyones that was in Bretayne, that whan La Beall Isode
undirstood that he was wedded she sente to hym by hir
maydyn, dame Brangwayn, pyteuous lettirs as coude be 5
thought and made, and hir conclusyon was thus, that if hit
pleased sir Trystram, to com to hir courte and bryngē with
hym Isode le Blanche Maynys; and they shulde be kepte
als well as herself.

Than sir Trystram called unto hym sir Keyhydy and 10
asked hym whether he wolde go with hym into Cornwayle
secretely. He answerde hym and seyde that he was redy at
all tymes. And than he lete ordayne prevayly a lityll
vessel, and therein they sayled, sir Trystram, sir Keyhydys,
and dame Brangwayne and Governayle, sir Trystrams 15
squyar.

So whan they were in the see a contraryous wynde blew
them unto the costis of North Walis, ny the Foreyste
Pereclus. Than seyde sir Trystrames,

'Here shall ye abyde me thes ten dayes, and Governayle, 20
my squyer, with you. And if so be I com nat agayne by that
day, take the nexte way into Cornwayle, for in thys foreyste
ar many strange adventures, as I have harde sey, and som
of hem I caste to preve or that I departe. And whan I may
I shall hyghe me aftir you.'

Than sir Trystrams²⁵ and sir Keyhydys toke their horsis 196^r
and departed frome theire felyship. And so they rode within
that foreyste a myle and more, and at the laste sir Trystramys
saw before them a lykely knyght sytting armed by
a well. And a stronge myghty horse stood passyng nyghe 30
hym ityed to an oke, and a man hovynge and rydynge by
hym, ledynge an horse lode with spearys. And thys knyght
that sate at the well semyd by hys countenaunce to be

1 sir Launcelot du Lake and *not in C* 3 C Bretayne whanne la beale Isoud
5 dame *not in C* 6 thus *not in C* C and hit 7 C* that he wold come
9 C she her self 10 W Kehydy⁹ 12 and seyde *not in C†* 14 C they
wente syr Tristram kehydus 18 C on the costes 18-19 C† castel peryllous
F (MS. B.N. fr. 103 f. 108^r col. 2): près de la forest des Darnantes 21 W a
a geyne 24 C caste me to preue or I 29 C armed syttinge 30 stood
not in C 31 C teyed 32 C lade with 33 C atte welle

passyng hevy. Than sir Trystramys rode nere hym and seyde,

‘Fayre knyght! Why sitte you so droupynge? Ye seme to be a knyghte arraunte by youre armys and harneys, and therefore dresse you to juste with one of us other with bothe!’

Therewithall that knyght made no wordes, but toke hys shylde and buckeled hit abouthe hys necke, and lyghtly he toke hys horse and lepte uppon hym, and than he toke a grete speare of hys squyre and departed hys way a furlonge.

Then sir Kehydyns asked leve of sir Trystrames to juste firste.

‘Sir, do your beste!’ seyde sir Trystrames.

So they mette togydirs, and there sir Kehydi(ns) had a falle and was sore wounded an hyghe abovyn the pappis. Than sir Trystramys seyde,

‘Knyght that ys well justed, now make you redy unto me!’

‘Sir, I am redy,’ seyde the knyght.

And anone he toke a grete speare and encountird with sir Trystramys. And there by fortune and by grete force that knyght smote downe sir Trystramys frome hys horse, and had a grete falle. Than sir Trystramys was sore ashamed, and lyghtly he avoyded hys horse and put hys shylde afore hys shulder and drew hys swerde, and than sir Trystramys requyred that knyght of hys knyghthode to alyghte uppon foote and fyght with hym.

‘I woll well,’ seyde the knyght.

And so he alyght uppon foote and avoyded hys horse and kest hys shylde uppon hys shulder and drew oute hys swerde, and there they fought a longe batayle togydirs, nyghe two owrys.

Than sir Trystramys seyde,

‘Fayre knyght, holde thyne honde a lyt yell whyle and telle me of whens thou arte and what is thy name.’

‘As for that,’ seyde the knyght, ‘I woll be avysed; but and ye woll telle me youre name, peradventure I woll telle you myne.’

⁵ W of of

¹⁴ W Kehydi⁹ ¹⁸ Sir not in C ¹⁹ C And thenne that knyght took a gretter spere in his hand and encoutered ²⁰ by fortune and not in C† ³⁰ C ful nyghe ³³ a lyt yell whyle not in C†

'Now, fayre knyght,' he seyde, 'my name ys sir Trystram (11) de Lyones.'

'Sir, and my name ys sir Lamerok de Galys.'

'A, sir Lamerok!' seyde sir Trystram, 'well be we mette! And bethynke the now of the despite thou dedist me of the 5 sendynge of the horne unto kynge Markis courte, to the entente to have slayne or dishonourde my lady, quene La Beall Isode. And therefore wyte thou well,' seyde sir Trystramys, 'the tone of us two shall dy or we departe.'

'Sir,' seyde sir Lamerok, 'that tyme that we were togydirs 10 in the Ile of Servage ye promysed mebettir frendeship.'

So sir Trystramys wolde make no lenger delayes, but laysshed at sir Lamerok, and thus they faught longe tylle aythir were wary of other. Than sir Trystrams seyde unto 15 sir Lamorak,

'In all my lyff mette I never with such a knyght that was so bygge and so well-brethed. Therefore,' sayde sir Trystramys, 'hit were pité that ony of us bothe sholde here be myscheved.'

'Sir,' seyde sir Lamerok, 'for youre renowne and your name I woll that ye have the worship, and therefore I woll 20 yelde me unto you.' And therewith he toke the poynte of hys swerde in hys honde to yelde hym.

'Nay,' seyde sir Trystrames, 'ye shall nat do so, for well I know youre profirs (are) more of your jantilnes than for ony feare or drede ye have of me.' 25

And therewithall sir Trystramys profferde hym hys swerde and seyde,

'Sir Lamerak, as an overcom knyght I yelde me to you as a man of moste noble proues that I ever mette!'

'Nay,' seyde sir Lamerok, 'I woll do you jantylnes: I 30 requyre you, lat us be sworne togydirs that never none of us shall aftir thys day have ado with other.'

And therewithall sir Trystrames and sir Lamorak sware

³ C Syre said the other knyght and my name is sir lamorak de galys ¹⁰⁻¹¹ C
 Lamorak remembre that we were to gyders in the yle of seruage and at that tyme
 ye promysed me grete frendship ¹⁴⁻²⁴ W (*tidenote*): Here sir Trystrams
 and sir Lamorak fawght tyll they were wary bothe and so they lefte on evyn
 honde and were swore togydir ¹⁷ C brethed as ye be ¹⁹⁻²⁰ C renomme
 and name ²⁰ C worship of this bataille and ²² in hys honde *not in Ct*
²⁴ Ct, W† and more ²⁴⁻⁵ Ct for my fere ²⁹ C of the most ²⁹ C mette
 with alle

that never none of hem sholde fyght agaynste othir, for well nother for woo.

(12) And thys meanewhyle com sir Palomydes, the good knyght,
 197^r folowyng the questyng beste that had in shap lyke a serpentis
 5 hede and a body lyke a lybud, buttokked lyke a lyon and
 footed lyke an harte. And in hys body there was such a
 noyse as hit had bene twenty couple of houndys questynge;
 and suche noyse that beste made wheresomever he wente.
 And thys beste evermore sir Palomydes folowed, for hit was
 10 called hys queste.

And ryght so as he folowed this beste, hit cam by sir Trystram, and sone aftir cam sir Palomydes. And to breff thys mater, he smote downe sir Trystramys and sir Lamorak bothe with one speare, and so he departed aftir the Beste 15 Glatyssaunte (that was called the Questynge Beste), wherefore thes two knyghtes were passynge wrothe that sir Palomydes wold nat fyght with hem on foote.

Here men may undirstonde that bene men of worshyp that man was never fourmed that all tymes myght attayne, 20 but somtyme he was put to the worse by malefortune and at som tyme the wayker knyght put the byggar knyght to a rebuke.

Than sir Trystrams and sir Lamerok gate sir Kayhydys upon a shylde betwyxte them bothe and led hym to a fosters 25 lodge. And there they gaff hym in charge to kepe hym well, and with hym they abode three dayes.

Than thes two knyghtes toke their horsys and at a crosse they departed. And than seyde sir Trystramys to sir Lamorak,

30 'I requyre you, if ye hap to mete with sir Palomydes, say to hym that he shall fynde me at the same welle there we mette tofore, and there I, sir Trystramys, shall preve whether he be bettir knyght than I.'

And so ayther departed frome othir a sondry way, and 35 sir Trystramys rode nyghe thereas was sir Keyhydys, and

1-2 C nor for wele nor for woo 5 C a lybard buttocks lyke 7 C† ben
 the noyse of thyrty coupel F (MS. B.N.fr. 103 f. 109v col. 2): comment se vingt
 brachés glatissent devant elle 12 C cam Palamydes 17 C on foote with
 hem 18 C ben of 19 C that he was 19-20 C myght stände but
 21 C putte the better knyghte 27 C at the crosse 30-1 C say hym 31-2 C
 atte same welle there I mette hym and

sir Lamorak rode untyll he cam to a chapell, and there he put hys horse unto pastoure.

And anone there cam sir Mellyagaunce that was kynge Bagdemagus sonne, and he there put hys horse to pasture, and was nat ware of sir Lamerok. And than thys knyght ⁵ sir Mellyagaunce made hys mone of the love that he had to ^{197v} quene Gwenyver, and there he made a wofull complaynte.

All thys harde sir Lamorak, and on the morne sir Lamorak toke hys horse and rode unto the foreyste, and there he mette with two knyghtes hovynge undir the woodshaw. ¹⁰

'Fayre kyghtes!' seyde sir Lamerok, 'what do ye, hovynge here and wacchynge? And yff ye be knyghtes arraunte that wyll juste, lo I am redy!'

'Nay, sir knyght,' they seyde, 'we abyde nat here for to juste with you, but we lye in a wayte uppon a knyght that ¹⁵ slew oure brothir.'

'What knyght was that,' seyde sir Lamorak, 'that ye wolde mette withall?'

'Sir,' they seyde, 'hit ys sir Launcelot that we woll slee and he com thys way.' ²⁰

'Ye take uppon you a grete charge,' seyde sir Lamorake, 'for sir Launcelot ys a noble proved knyght.'

'As for that, sir, we doute nat, for there ys none of us but we ar good inowghe for hym.'

'I woll nat beleve that,' seyde sir Lamerok, 'for I harde ²⁵ never yet of no knyght dayes of oure lyff but sir Launcelot was to bygge for hym.'

Ryght as they talked sir Lameroke was ware how sir (13) Launcelot com rydynge streyte towarde them. Than sir Lamorak salewed hym and he hym agayne, and than sir ³⁰ Lamorak asked sir Launcelot if there were onythyng that he myght do for hym in thys marchys.

'Nay,' seyde sir Launcelot, 'nat at thys tyme, I thanke you.'

Than ayther departed frome other, and sir Lamorake rode ayen thereas he lefft the two knyghtes, and than he founde ³⁵ them hydde in the leved woode.

⁷ C Gueneuer ¹⁴ C they said not soo we ¹⁵ C lye here in a wayte of a
¹⁷⁻¹⁸ C* wold fayne mete ¹⁹⁻²⁰ C* that slewe oure broder And yf euer we
 maye mete with hym he shal not escape but we shalle slee hym ²³ sir not
 in C ²⁶ C the dayes of my lyf ²⁸ C Ryyght soo as they stode talkynge
 thus syre

'Fye on you!' seyde sir Lamerak, 'false cowardis! That pité and shame hit ys that ony of you sholde take the hyghe Order of Knyghthode!'

So sir Lamerok departed fro them, and within a whyle he 5 mette with sir Mellyagaunce. And than sir Lamorak asked hym why he loved quene Gwenyver as he ded, 'for I was nat far frome you whan ye made youre complaynte by the chapell.'

198^r 'Ded ye so?' seyde sir Mellyagaunce. 'Than woll I abyde 10 by hit. I love quene Gwenyver!'

'What woll ye with hit?'

'I woll preve and make hit good that she ys the fayreste lady and moste of beauté in the worlde.'

15 'As to that,' seyde sir Lamerok, 'I say nay thereto, for quene Morgause of Orkeney, modir unto sir Gawayne, for she ys the fayrest lady that beryth the lyff.'

'That ys nat so,' seyde sir Mellyagaunce, 'and that woll I preve with my hondis!'

20 'Wylle ye so?' seyde sir Lamorak. 'And in a bettir quarell kepe I nat to fygħt.'

So they departed [ayther] frome oþir in grete wrathe, and than they com rydyng togydirs as hit had bene thundir, and aythir smote other so sore that their horsis felle backewarde to the erthe. And than they avoyded their horsys and dressed 25 their shyldis and drew their swerdis, and than they hurtled togydirs as wylde borys, and thus they fought a grete whyle. For sir Mellyagaunce was a good man and of grete myght, but sir Lamorak was harde byg for hym and put hym all-wayes abacke, but aythir had wounded oþir sore.

30 And as they stood thus fyghtynge, by fortune com sir Launcelot and sir Bleoberys, and than sir Launcelot rode betwyxte them and asked them for what cause they fought so togydirs, 'and ye ar bothe of the courte of kynge Arthure.'

(14) 'Sir,' seyde sir Mellyagaunce, 'I shall telle you for what 35 cause we do thys batayle. I praysed my lady, quene Gwenyvere, and seyde she was the fayreste lady of the worlde, and sir

¹ That not in C ⁶ C Gueneuer ¹⁰ C gueneuer ¹² hit not in C

¹⁵⁻¹⁶ C moder to sire Gawayne and his moder† is the fayrest quene and lady

¹⁸ C handes vpon thy body ²¹ C* departed eyfær from ³³ C bothe

knyghtes of kynge Arthur

Lamerok seyde nay thereto, for he seyde quene Morgause of Orkeney was fayrar than she and more of beauté.'

'A!' seyde sir Launcelot, 'sir' Lamorak, why sayst thou so? Hit ys nat thy parte to dispraye thy prynces that thou arte undir obeysaunce and we all.' And therewithall sir 5 Launcelot alyght on foote. 'And therefore make the redy, for I woll preve uppon the that quene Guenever ys the fayrst lady and moste of bounté in the worlde.'

'Sir,' seyde sir Lamerok, 'I am lothe to have ado with you in thys quarrell, for every man thynkith hys owne lady 10 fayreste, and though I prayse the lady that I love moste, ye sholde nat be wrothe. For though my lady quene Gwenyver be fayrst in youre eye, wyte you well quene Morgause of Orkeney ys fayrst in myne eye, and so every knyght thynkith his owne lady fayreste. And wyte you well, 15 sir, ye ar the man in the worlde excepte sir Trystramys that I am moste lothyst to have ado withall, but and ye woll nedys have ado with me, I shall endure you as longe as I may.'

Than spake sir Bleoberys and seyde,

'My lorde, sir Launcelot, I wyste you never so mysse- 20 advysed as ye be at thys tyme, for sir Lamerok seyth to you but reson and knightly. For I warne you, I have a lady, and methynkith that she ys the fayrst lady of the worlde. Were thys a grete reson that ye sholde be wrothe with me for such langage? And well 25 ye wote that sir Lamorak ys a noble knyght as I know ony lyvynge, and he hath oughte you and all us ever good wyll. Therefore I pray you, be fryndis!'

Than sir Launcelot seyde,

'Sir, I pray you, forgyve me myne offence and evyll wyll, and if I was mysseadvysed I woll make amendis.' 30

'Sir,' seyde sir Lamerok, 'the amendis ys sone made betwyxte you and me.'

And so sir Launcelot and sir Bleoberys departed, and sir Lamerok and sir Mellyagaunce toke their horsis and aythir departed frome othir.

35

³ C A syre Lamorak ⁵⁻⁶ C vnder theire obeyssance dn† we alle and there with he alyghte on foote and sayd for this quarel make the ¹³ C Gueneuer
¹⁷⁻¹⁸ C nedes fyghte with me ²¹ C ye are now For ²¹ to not in C
²⁵⁻⁶ C is as noble knyght as I knowe and he ²⁷ all not in C ²⁸ C sayd
 vnto sir lamerak ²⁹ offence and not in C† ³⁰ C will amende hit ³⁴ C
 syr Melyagaunce and sir Lamorak

And within a whyle cam kyng Arthure and mette with sir Lamorak and justed with hym, and there he smote downe sir Lamorak and wounded hym sore with a speare. And so he rode frome hym, wherefore sir Lamerok was wroth that 5 he wolde nat fyght with hym on foote, howbeit that sir Lamerok knew nat kynge Arthure.

- (15) Now levith of thyss tale and spekith of sir Trystramys, that as he rode he mette with sir Kay the Senescyall, and there sir Kay asked sir Trystramys of what contrey 10 he was. He answerde and seyde he was of the contrey of Cornwaile.

'Hit may well be,' seyde sir Kay, 'for as yet harde I never 199^r that evir good knyght com oute of Cornwayle.'

'That ys well spokyn,' seyde sir Trystram, 'but and hit 15 please you to telle me your name, I pray you.'

'Sir, wyte you well that my name ys sir Kay the Senesciall.'

'A, sir, ys that youre name?' seyde sir Trystramys. 'Now wyte you well that ye ar named the shamefullyst knyght of your tunge that now ys lyvynge. Howbeit ye 20 ar called a good knyght, but ye ar called unfortunate and passyng overthwart of youre tunge.'

And thus they rode togydirs tylle they cam to a brydge, and there was a knyght that wolde nat latte them passe tylle one of them justed with hym. And so that knyght justed 25 with sir Kay, and there he gaff sir Kay a falle, and hys name was sir Tor, sir Lamerokes halff-brothir.

And than they two rode to their lodgynge, and therē they founde sir Braundiles, and sir Tor cam thidir anone aftir. And as they sate at hir souper, thes four knyghtes, three of 30 them spake all the shame by Cornysh knyghtes that coude be seyde. Sir Trystramys harde all that they seyde, and seyde but lytill, but he thought the more. But at that tyme he discoverde nat hys name.

And uppon the morne sir Trystrams toke hys horse and 35 abode them uppon their way. And there sir Brandiles

7 C Now leue we of this tale and speke we of 10 C ansuerd that he 14 C
is euyl spoken 14 C bnt S but 15 C I requyre yon (S you) 16 C
well said sire kay that 16 C seneschal 17 A sir not in C 20 C kuyght
S knyght 23 that not in C 25 C there that knyght gaf C falle his
29 hir not in C C knyghtes S knygtess 30 the not in C 30-1 that
coude be seyde not in C 31-2 C and he sayd

p[ro]firde to juste with sir Trystram, and there sir Trystram smote hym downe, horse and all, to the erthe.

Than sir Tor le Fyze de Vaysshoure, he encountird with sir Trystram, and there sir Trystram smote hym downe. And than he rode hys way and sir Kay folowed hym, but he 5 wolde none of hys felyship. Than sir Brandiles com to sir Kay and seyde,

'I wolde wyte fayne what ys that knyghtes name.'

'Com one with me,' seyde sir Kay, 'and we shall pray hym to telle us hys name.' 10

So they rode togydirs tyll they cam nyghe hym, and than they were ware where he sate by a welle and had put of hys helme to drynke at the welle. And whan that he saw them com he laced on hys helme lyghtly and toke hys horse to 199v profir hem to juste. 15

'Nay!' seyde sir Brandiles, 'we justed late inowe with you, but we com nat in that entente, but we requyre you of knyghthod to telle us youre name.'

'My fayre lordys, sitthyn that hit ys youre [desyre], and now for to please you ye shall wyte that my name 20 ys sir Trystram de Lyones, nevew unto kyng Mark of Cornwayle.'

'In goode tyme,' seyde sir Brandiles, 'and well be ye foundyn! And wyte you well that we be ryght glad that we have founde you, and we be of a felyship that wolde be ryght 25 glad of youre company, for ye ar the knyght in the worlde that the felyship of the Rounde Table desyryth moste to have the company off.'

'God thank them all,' seyde sir Trystram, 'of hir grete goodnes, but as yet I fele well that I am not able to be of 30 their felyship, for I was never yet of such dedys of worthynes to be in the compayne of such a felyship.'

'A,' seyde sir Kay, 'and ye be sir Trystrams, ye ar the man called now moste of proues excepte sir Launcelot, for he beryth nat the lyff crystynde nother hethynde that canne 35 fynde such another knyght, to speke of hys proues and of his

3 C fyse de vayshoure he not in C 6 C wold not of 9 C Come on with
 13 that not in C 17 C But for this we come to requyre 19 C fayre knyghtes
 20 now for not in C 27 C the noble felauship C mooste desyryth
 29 all not in C 30 C am vnabyl to 33 C Tristram (S Trystram) de lyones
 34 C launcelot du lake 35 C crysten' ne hethen

hondis and hys trouthe withall. For yet cowde there never creature sey hym dishonoure and make hit good.'

Thus they talked a grete whyle, and than they departed ayther frome other such wayes as hem seemed beste.

(16) Now shall ye here what was the cause that kyng Arthure cam into the Foreyste Perelous, that was in North Walis, by the meanys of a lady. Her name was Aunowre, and thys lady cam to kynge Arthure at Cardyeff, and she by fayre promyses and fayre behestis made kynge Arthure to ryde 10 with her into that foreyste Perelous. And she was a grete sorseres, and many dayes she had loved kynge Arthure, and bycause she wolde have had hym to lye by her she cam into that contrey.

So whan the kynge was gone with hir, many of hys knyghtes folowed aftir hym whan they myste hym, as sir Launcelot, sir Brandiles, and many other.

200^r And whan she had brought hym to hir towre she desired hym to ly by her, and than the kynge remembird hym of hy[s] lady and wolde nat for no crauffte that she cowde do.

20 Than every day she wolde make hym ryde into that foreyste with *<hyr>* owne knyghtes to the entente to have had hym slayne; for whan thys lady Aunowre saw that she myght nat have hym at her wylle, than she laboured by false meanys to have destroyed kynge Arthure and slayne hym.

25 Than the Lady of the Lake, that was allwayes fryndely to kynge Arthure, she undirstood by hir suttyle craufftes that kynge Arthure was lykely to be destroyed. And thefefore thys Lady of the Lake, that hyght Nyntyve, she cam into that foreyste to seke aftir sir Launcelot du Lake othir ellis sir

30 Trystramys for to helpe kynge Arthure, for as that same day she knew well that kynge Arthur sholde be slayne onles that he had helpe of one of these two knyghtes.

And thus *(as)* she rode uppon a downe she mette with sir Trystram, and anone as she saw hym she knew hym and seyde,

35 'A, my lorde, sir Trystram, well be ye mette, and blyssed

6 C forest perillous	7 C Annowre	8 C Cardyf	9 C promyse	12 had
<i>not in C</i>	15 C after kynge arthur whan	<i>16 sir not in C</i>		19 C
not lye by her for	21 W hys	C his	C had kynge arthur	27 C
was lyke to	28 C Nyneue	29 C lake or sire	30-1 C day this	
lady of the lake knewe	33 C rode vp and donne (Soun) tyl she			34 and
<i>seyde not in C</i>	35 C Tristram she said well be			

be the tyme that I have mette with you, for the same day
and within thys [two] owrys shall be done the dolefullyst
dede that ever was done in thys londe.'

'A, fayre damesell,' seyde sir Trystramys, 'may I amende
hit?'

'Yee, sir,¹ therefore comyth on with me in all the haste ye
may, for ye shall se the moste worshipfullyst knyght in the
worlde harde bestadde.'

Than seyde sir Trystramys, 'I am redy lo to helpe you
and suche a noble man as ye sey he ys.'²

'Sir, hit ys nother better ne worse,' seyde the damesell,
'but the noble kynge Arthure hymselff.'

'God deffende,' seyde sir Trystramys, 'that ever he shulde
be in such distresse!'

Than they rode togydirs a grete pace untyll they cam to a
lityll turrett in a castell, and undirnethe that castel they saw
a knyght stondynge uppon foote fyghtyng with two knyghtes.
And so sir Trystramys behelde them. And at the laste thes
two knyghtes smote downe that one knyght, and one of hem
unlaced hys helme, and the lady Aunowre gate kynge
Arthurs swerde in her honde to have strykyn of his hede.

And therewithall com sir Trystramys as faste as he myght,
and seyyng, 'Traytoures! Leve that knyght anone!' And
so sir Trystrams smote the tone of hem thorow the body that
he felle dede, and than he russhed to the othir and smote hys
backe in sundir.

And in the meanewhyle the Lady of the Lake cryed to
kyng Arthur, 'Lat nat that false lady ascape!'

Than kynge Arthur overtoke hir and with the same swerd
he smote of her hede. And the Lady of the Lake toke up
hir hede and hynge hit at hir sadill-bowe by the heyre.

¹ C this same ²⁻³ C the foulest† dede F (MS. B.N. fr. 334 f. 114^o col. 1):
que chevalerie demourast en joye qui pour la mort d'un homme sera huy en dolour
⁴ C O fair ⁶ C Come on with me she said and that in alle the haste ⁹ lo
not in C ⁹⁻¹¹ C helpe suche a noble man he is neither better ¹¹⁻¹² C said
the lady of the lake but ¹⁹ C doune the one C and that one ²⁰ C*
helme to haue slayne hym And the lady Annoure ²¹ W have haue
²²⁻²⁸ W (sidenote): How sir Trystrams rescowed kynge Arthur fro the lady
Aunowre ²²⁻⁴ C Tristram with alle his myghte cryenge Traytresse Trai-
tresse leue that And anone there sire Tristram smote the one of the knyghtes
thorou ²⁵ C rasshed ³¹ C henge it vp by the heyre of her sadel
bowe

And than sir Trystramys horsed the kynge agayne and rode forth with hym, but he charged the Lady of the Lake nat to discover hys name as at that tyme. So whan the kynge was horsed he thanked hartely sir Trystramys and desired
 5 to wyte hys name, but he wolde nat telle hym none other but that he was a poure knyght aventures. And so he bare kynge Arthure [felyship] tylle he mette with som of hys knyghtes.

And so within a whyle he mette with sir Ector de Marys, and he knew nat kynge Arthur nother yet sir Trystram, and
 10 he desired to juste with one of them. Than sir Trystrames rode unto sir Ector and smote hym frome hys horse, and whan he had done so he cam agayne to [the] kynge and seyde,

'My lorde, yondir ys one of youre knyghtes, he may beare you felyshyp. And another day, <by> that dede that I have
 15 done for you, I truste to God ye shall undirstonde that I wolde do you servyse.'

'Alas!' seyde kynge Arthure, 'lat me wyte what ye ar.'

'Nat at thys tyme,' seyde sir Trystramys. So he departed and lefft kynge Arthur and sir Ector togydirs.

(17) 20 And than at a day sette sir Trystrams and sir Lamerok mette at a welle, and than they toke sir Keyhydyns at the
 201^r fosters house, and so they rode with hym to [the] ship where they lefft dame Brangwayne and Governayle. And so they sayled into Cornuayle all hole togydirs.

25 And by assente and by enformacion of dame Brangwayne, whan they were londed they rode unto sir Dynas the Senesciall, a trusty frynde of sir Trystramys, and se sir Dynas and dame Brangwayne rode to the courte of kynge Marke and tolde the quene La Beall Isode that sir Trystrams was nyghe hir in the contrey. Than for verry pure
 30 joy La Beall Isode sowned, and whan she myght speke she seyde,

'Jantyll senesciall, helpe that I myght speke with hym, othir my harte woll braste!'

35 Than sir Dynas and dame Brangwayne brought sir

¹ C horsed kyng Arthur and ⁵ none other *not in C* ⁷ C* Arthur
 felauiship tyl F (MS. B.N. fr. 334 f. 115^r col. 1): je vous feray compagnie
 jusques a tant que vous aiez trouvé aucun de vos chevaliers ⁹ C Arthur nor
 sir Tristram ¹³ C knyghtes S knghtes ²¹ C at the welle C
 took kehydius ²⁴ C all holy ²⁶ C† whan thyne ²⁷⁻⁸ C so dame
 Brangwayne and syré Dynas rode ³³ C gentyl knyȝt Seneschall help

Trystram and sir Kehydyns prevaly into the courte, unto the chambir whereas La Beall Isode assygned them. And to telle the joyes that were betwyxte La Beall Isode and sir Trystramys, there ys no maker can make hit, nothir no harte can thynke hit, nother no penne can wryte hit, nother no mowth can speke hit.

And as the Freynshe booke makith mension, at the firste tyme that ever sir Kayhidi(ns) saw La Beall Isode he was so enamered upon hir that for very pure love he myght never withdraw hit. And at the laste, as ye shall hyre or the booke ¹⁰ be ended, sir Keyhydys dyed for the love of Isode.

And than privaly he wrote unto her lettirs and baladis of the moste goodlyeste that were used in tho dayes. And whan La Beall Isode undirstoode hys lettirs she had pité of hys complaynte, and unavised she wrote another lettir to com- ¹⁵ forte hym withall.

And sir Trystram was all thys whyle in a turret, at the commaundemente of La Beall Isode, and whan she myght she yeode and come to sir Trystram.

So on a day kynge Marke played at the chesse undir a ²⁰ chambir wyndowe, and at that tyme sir Trystramys and sir Keyhydys were within the chambir over kynge Marke. And as hit myshapped, sir Trystrams founde the lettir that ^{201v} sir Kayhydys sente unto La Beall Isode; also he had founde the lettir that she had sente unto sir Keyhydys. And at the ²⁵ same tyme La Beall Isode was in the same chambir.

Than sir Trystramys com unto La Beall Isode and seyde,

'Madame, here ys a lettir that was sente unto you, and here ys the lettir that ye sente unto hym that sente you that lettir. Alas! madame, the good love that I have loydyd you, ³⁰ and many londis and grete rychesse have I forsakyn for youre love! And now ye ar a traytouras unto me, whych dothe me grete payne.'

'But as for the, sir Keyhydys, I brought the oute of Bretayne into thys contrey, and thy fadir, kynge Howell, I ³⁵

¹ C kehydius pruely vnto the ² C chamber S chambre C Isoud
hadde assygned hit and ⁴⁻⁷ C† there is no tonge can telle it nor herte
thynke hit nor pen wryte hit And as ⁷ W makith makith ¹¹ C for the loue
(S for loue) of la beale Isoud ¹⁸⁻¹⁹ C myght she came vnto sire ²⁴ C
sent vn o la ²⁵ C she wrote vnto Kehydius ²⁵⁻⁶ C that same
³² C to me the whiche

wan hys londis. Howbeit I wedded thy syster, Isode le Blaunce Maynes, for the goodnes she ded unto me, and yet, as I am a trew knyght, she ys a clene maydyn for me. But wyte thou well, sir Keyhydyncs, for thys falshed and 5 treson thou hast done unto me, I woll revenge hit upon the!' And therewithall sir Trystram drew his swerde and seyde, 'Sir Keyhidyncs, kepe the!' And than La Beall Isode sowned to the erthe.

And whan sir Keyhydyncs saw sir Trystrams com uppon 10 hym, he saw none other boote but lepte oute at a baywyndow evyn over the hede where sate kynge Marke playyng at the chesse. And whan the kynge saw one com hurlyng over hys hede, he seyde,

'Felow, what arte thou, and what ys the cause thou lepe 15 oute at that wyndow?'

'My lorde kynge,' seyde sir Keyhydyncs, 'hit fortuned me that I was aslepe in the wyndow abovyn youre hede, and as I slepte I slumbirde, and so I felle downe.'

Thus sir Keyhydyncs excused hym, and sir Trystram drad 20 hym leste he were discoverde unto the kyng that he was there. Wherefore he drew hym to the strength of the towre and armed hym in such armour as he had for to fyght with hem that wolde withstonde hym.

202^r And so whan sir Trystram saw that there was no resistance 25 agaynste hym he sente Governayle for hys horse and hys speare, and knyghtly he rode forth oute of the castell opynly that was calyd the Castell of Tyntagyll.

And evyn at the gate he mette with sir Gyngalyn, Gawaynes sonne, and anone sir Gyngalyn put hys speare in 30 the reste and ran uppon sir Trystram and brake hys speare. And sir Trystram at that tym had but a swerde, and gaff hym such a buffet uppon the helme that he fylle downe frome hys sadill, and hys swerde slode adowne and carved asundir his horse necke. And so sir Trystramys rode hys 35 way into the foreyste.

And all thys doyng saw kynge Marke, and than he sente

3 C am true 12 C chesses 14 C lepest 16 C the kynge 18 C
slommeryd 19-20 C† hym Capitulum xiii Thenne sir Tristram dredde sore
lest 22 for not in S 29 C syr Gawayns 29-30 C in his reyste
33-4 C and carf a sonder

a squyer unto the hurte knyght and commaunded hym to com to hym, and so he ded. And whan kynge Marke wanst that hyt was sir Gyngalyn he wellcommyd hym and gaff hym another horse, and so he asked hym what knyght was that encountirde with hym.

5

'Sir,' seyde sir Gyngalyn, 'I wote nat what knyght hit was, but well I wote he syeth and makith grete dole.'

Than sir Trystrames within a whyle mette with a knyght of hys owne—hys name was sir Fergus—and whan he had mette with hym he made such sorow that he felle downe of 10 hys horse in a sowne, and in such sorow he was inne three dayes and three nyghtes.

Than at the laste sir Trystramys sente unto the courte by sir Fergus for to spurre what tydyngis. And so as he rode by the way he mette with a damesell that cam frome sir 15 Palomydes to know and seke how sir Trystramys ded. Than sir Fergus tolde her how he was allmoste oute of hys mynde.

'Alas!' seyde the damesell, 'where shall I fynde hym?'

'In suche a place,' seyde sir Fergus.

Than sir Fergus founde quene Isode syke in hir bedde, 20 makynge the grettyste dole that ever ony erthly woman made.

And whan the damesell founde sir Trystramys she made 202v

• grete dole, bycause she myght nat amende hym; for the more she made of hym, the more was hys payne. And at the laste sir Trystram toke hys horse and rode away frome her. And 25 than was hit three dayes or that she coude fynde hym, and than she broute hym mete and drynke, but he wolde none.

And than another tyme sir Trystramys ascaped away frome the damesell, and hit happened hym to ryde by the same castell where sir Palomydes and sir Trystramys dyd batayle, 30 whan La Beall Isode departed them. And there by fortune the damesell mette with sir Trystramys ayen, makynge the grettiste dole that ever erthely creature made, and she yode to the lady of that castell and tolde of the myssadventure of sir Trystrames.

35

'Alas!' seyde the lady of that castell, 'where ys my lorde sir Trystramys?'

4 C hym an horse and asked 7 C he sygheth 9 C owne that hyghte sir
 10 C made grete sorowe in so moche that he 11 C was in thre 14 C
 to spere 20 C seke 34 C tolde her

'Ryght here by youre castell,' seyde the damesell.

'In good tyme,' seyde the lady, 'ys he so nyghe me: he shall have mete and drynke of the beste. And an harpe I have of hys whereupon he taught me, for of goodly harpyng 5 he beryth the prysse of the worlde.'

So thys lady and damesell brought hym mete and drynke, but he ete lityll thereoff. Than upon a nyght he put hys horse frome hym and unlaced hys armour, and so yeode unto the wyldirnes and braste downe the treys and bowis.

- 10 And othirwhyle, whan he founde the harpe that the lady sente hym, than wolde he harpe and play thereupon and wepe togydirs. And somtyme, whan he was in the wood, the lady wanst nat where he was. Than wolde she sette hir downe and play uppon the harpe, and anone sir Trystramys wolde 15 com to the harpe and harkyn thereto, and somtyme he wolde harpe hymselff.

Thus he there endured a quarter off a yere, and so at the
203^r laste he ran hys way and she wanst nat where he was becom.

And than was he naked, and waxed leane and poore of fleyshe.

- 20 And so he felle in the felyshyppe of herdemen and shyperdis, and dayly they wolde gyff hym som of their mete and drynke, and whan he ded ony shrewde dede they wolde beate hym with roddis. And so they clypped hym with sherys and made hym lyke a foole.

- (19) 25 And se upon a day sir Dagonet, kynge Arthurs foole, cam into Cornwayle with two squyers with hym, and as they rode thorow that foreyste they cam by a fayre welle wher sir Trystramys was wonte to be. And the weddir was hote, and they alyght to drynke of that welle, and in the meane-
30 whyle theyre horsys brake lowse.

Ryght so cam sir Trystramys unto them, and firste he sowsed sir Dagonet in that welle, and aftir that hys squyars, and thereat lowghe the shyperdis. And furthwithall he ran aftir their horsis and brought hem agayne one by one, and 35 ryght so wete as they were he made them lepe up and ryde their wayes.

5 C in the world 8-9 C And thenne he vnlaced his armour and thenne sir Tristram wold go in to the 12 C woode that the 14-15 C that harp Thenne wold sire Tristram come to that harp 17 Coyere thene at 25 sir not in C 27 S came to a 31 C sire Tristram came 32 C after his

Thus sir Trystramys endured there an halff-yere naked,
and wolde never com in towne.

So the meanewhyle the damesell that sir Palomydes sent
to seke sir Trystram, she yode unto sir Palomydes and tolde
hym off all the myschyff that sir Trystram endured. 5

‘Alas!’ seyde sir Palomydes, ‘hit ys grete pité that ever
so noble a knyght sholde be so myscheved for the love of a
lady. But nevertheles I woll go and seke hym and comforte
hym and I may.’

Than a lytta before that tyme La Beall Isode had com- 10
maunded sir Kayhydysns oute of the contrey of Cornwayle.
So sir Keyhydysns departed with a dolorous harte, and by
aventure he mette with sir Palomydes, and they felyshypped
togydirs, and aythir complayned to other of there hote love
that they loved La Beall Isode. 15

‘Now lat us,’ seyde sir Palomydes, ‘seke sir Trystramys
that lovyth her as well as we, and let us preve whether we
may recover hym.’

So they rode into the foreyste, and three dayes and three 203▼
nyghtes they wolde never take lodgynge, but ever sought sir
Trystram. And upon a tyme by adventure they mette with
kynge Marke that was rydden frome hys men all alone.
And whan they saw hym sir Palomydes knew hym, but sir
Keyhydysns knew hym nat.

‘A, false knyght!’ seyde sir Palomydes, ‘hit ys pité thou 25
haste thy lyff, for thou arte a destroyer of all worshipfull
knyghtes, and by thy myschyff and thy vengeance thou
haste destroyed that moste noble knyght, sir Trystramys de
Lyones. And therefore deffende the,’ seyde sir Palomydes,
‘for thou shalt dye thys day! 30

‘That were shame,’ seyde kynge Marke, ‘for ye too ar
armed and I am unarmed.’

‘As for that,’ seyde sir Palomydes, ‘I shall fynde a remedy
therefore: here ys a knyght with me, and thou shalt have
hys harneyse.’ 35

‘Nay,’ seyde kynge Marke, ‘I woll nat have ado with you,
for cause have ye none to me: for all the mysseease that sir

² C* town ne vyllage ⁴ C yede ¹¹ C Conutrey ¹⁶ W
ws . C vs ¹⁷ C loued her ¹⁹ C that forest ²⁴ C Kehydins S
Kehydius ²⁵ C fals kynge ²⁸ S the mooste

Trystramys hath was for a lettir that he founde. For as for me, I ded to hym no displeasure, and God knowith I am full sory for hys maledye and hys myssease.'

So whan the kynge had thus excused hymselff they were 5 fryndys, and kynge Marke wolde have had them unto the Castell of Tyntagyll. But sir Palomydes wolde nat, but turned unto the realme of Logrys, and sir Keyhydys seyde that he wolde into Bretayne.

Now turne we unto sir Dagonet ayen, that whan he and 10 hys squyers were uppon horsebacke he demyd that the shyperdis had sente that foole to aray hem so bycause that they lawghed at them. And so they rode unto the kepers of the bestis and all to-bete them.

Whan sir Trystramys saw hem betyn that were wonte to 15 gyff hym mete, he ran thydir and gate sir Dagonet by the hede, and there he gaff hym such a falle to the erthe and brusede hym so that he lay styll. And than he wraste hys 204^r swerde oute of hys honde, and therewith he ran to one of hys squyers and smote of hys hede, and hys othir squyer fled. 20 And so sir Trystramys toke his way with the swerde in hys honde, rennyng as he had bene wyld woode.

Than sir Dagonet rode to kynge Marke and tolde hym how he had spedde in the foreyste, 'and therefore,' seyde sir Dagonet, 'beware, kynge Marke, that thou com nat aboute 25 that well in the foreyste, for there ys a foole naked. And that foole and I, foole, mette togydir, and he had allmoste slayne me.'

'A,' seyde kynge Marke, 'that ys sir Matto le Breune that felle oute of hys wytte because he loste hys lady, for whan 30 sir Gaherys smote downe sir Matto and wan hys lady of hym, never syns was he in his mynde, and that was grete pité, for he was a good knyght.'

(20) Than sir Andred that was cousyn unto sir Trystram made a lady that was hys paramour to sey and to noyse hit that 35 she was with sir Trystramys or ever he dyed. And thys tale she brought unto kynge Markis house, that she buryed hym

3 C his disease and malady 4 C thus xcused hym they 5-6 the Castell of
not in C 11 S that soole 14 Whan not in C 15 C* mete and drynke
thenne he 16 there he not in C 16-17 C erthe that he brysed hym sore
so 18 C swērd S swerd 19 C & the other fled 20 C that swerd
23 C that forest 33 C vato S vnto 36 C markes courte that

by a welle, and that or he dyed he besoughte kynge Marke to make hys cousyn, sir Andred, kynge of the contrey of Lyonas, of the whych sir Trystramys was lorde of. And all thys ded sir Andred bycause he wolde have had sir Trystramys londis.

And whan kynge Mark harde telle that sir Trystrames was dede he wepte and made grete dole. But whan quene Isode harde of thes tydyingis, she made such sorow that she was nyghe outh of her mynde. And so uppon a day she thought to sle hirselff and never to lyve aftir the deth of sir Trystramys. 10

And so uppon a day La Beall Isode gate a swerde prvyavly, and bare hit into her gardyne, and there she pyghte the swerde thorow a plum-tre up to the hyltis so that hit stake faste, and hit stoode breste-hyghe. And as she wolde have renne uppon the swerde and to have slayne hirselff, all 15 thys aspyed kynge Marke, howshe kneled adowne and seyde,

'Sweyte Lorde Jesu, have mercy upon me, for I may nat 204v lyve aftir the deth of sir Trystram de Lyones, for he was my firste love and shall be the laste!'

And with thes wordis cam kynge Marke and toke hir in 20 hys armys. And than he toke up the swerde and bare hir away with hym into a towre, and there he made hir to be kepte, and wacched hir surely. And aftir that she lay longe syke, nyghe at the poynte of dethe.

So thys meanewhyle ran sir Trystramys naked in the 25 foreyste with the swerde in hys honde, and so he cam to an ermytayge, and there he layde hym downe and slepte. And in the meanewhyle the ermyte stale away the swerde and layde mete downe by hym. Thus was he kepte there a ten dayes, and at the laste he departed and com to the herdemen 30 ayen.

And there was a gyaunte in that contrey that hyght Tauleas, and for feare of sir Trystram more than seven yere he durste never muche go at large, but for the moste party he kepte hym in a sure castell of hys owne. And so thys 35 Tauleas harde telle that sir Trystramys was dede by the noyse of the courte of kynge Marke. Than thys gyaunt Tauleas yode dayly at hys large.

9-10 C after sir tristram's deth
Tauleas

28 C his swerd

33 C Tawleas

36 C

37 gyaunt not in C

38 C Tauleas wente dayly at large

And so he happyd upon a day he cam to the herdemen wandryng and langeryng, and there he sette hym downe to reste amoneg them. And in the meanewhyle there cam a knyght of Cornwayle that led a lady with hym, and hys name 5 was sir Dynaunte. And whan the gyaunte saw hym he wente frome the herdemen and hydde hym under a tre.

And so the knyght cam to the well and there he alight to repose hym. And as sone as he was frome hys horse this gyaunte Tauleas com betwyxte thys knyght and hys horse 10 and leped uppon hym, and so forthewith he rode unto sir Dynaunte and toke hym by the coler and pulled hym afore 205^r hym upon hys horse, and wolde have stryken of hys hede.

Than the herdemen seyde unto sir Trystram, 'Helpe yondir knyght!'

15 'Helpe ye hym,' seyde sir Trystram.

'We dare nat,' seyde the herdemen.

Than sir Trystram was ware of the swerde of the knyght theras hit lay, and so thydir he ran and toke up the swerde and smote to sir Tauleas, and so strake of hys hede, and so he 20 yode hys way to the herdemen.

(21) Than sir Dynaunte toke up the gyauntes hede and bare hit with hym unto kynge Marke, and tolde hym what adventure betydde hym in the foreyste and how a naked man rescowed hym frome the grymly gyaunte sir Tauleas.

25 'Where had ye thys aventure?' seyde kynge Marke.

'Forsothe,' seyde sir Dynaunte, 'at the fayre fountayne in the foreyst, where many adventures knyght[es] mete, and there ys the madde man.'

'Well,' seyde kynge Marke, 'I woll se that wood man.'

30 So within a day or two kynge Marke commaunded hys knyghtes and his hunters to be redy, and seyde that he wolde hunte on the morne. And so uppon the morne he wente into that foreyste.

And whan the kynge cam to that welle he found there

³ And in *not in C* ⁵ *C* Dynaunt ⁹⁻¹⁰ *C** hors and toke the hors and
lepte (*see note*) ¹² *C* and there wolde ¹⁸⁻²² *W* (*sidenote*): How sir
Trystram slew Tauleas the Gyaunte ¹⁹ *C* smote to sir Tauleas and so *not*
in *C†* ²⁰ *C* yede ²¹ *C** Thenne the knyght took vp *F* le chevalier
²⁷ *C* in your foreste *C* aduenturous knyȝtes ²⁹ *C* that wild
man ³¹⁻² *C* hunters that they shold be redy on the morne for to hunte
and so

lyyng a fayre naked man, and a swerde by hym. Than kynge Marke blew and straked, and therewith hys knyghtes cam to hym, and than he commaunded hys knyghtes to take the naked man with fayrenes, ‘and brynge hym to my castell.’

. And so they ded savely and fayre, and keste mantels uppon sir Trystramys, and so lad hym unto Tyntagyll. And there they bathed hym and wayshed hym, and gaff hym hote suppyngis, tylle they had brought hym well to hys remembraunce. But all thys whyle there was no creature that knew ⁵ ¹⁰ sir Trystramys nothir what maner man he was.

So hyt befelle uppon a day that the quene La Beall Isode hard of such a man that ran naked in the foreyste, and how the kynge had brought hym home to the courte. Than La Beall Isode called unto her dame Brangwayne and seyde,

‘Com on with me, for we woll go se thys man that my lorde brought frome the foreste the laste day.’

So they passed forth and spurred where was the syke man, and than a squyer tolde the quene that he was in the gardyne takyng hys reste to repose hym ayenst the sunne.

So whan the quene loked uppon sir Trystramys she was nat remembird of hym, but ever she seyde unto dame Brangwayne, ‘Mesemys I shulde have sene thys man here before in many placis.’

But as sone as sir Trystramys sye her he knew her well ²⁵ inowe, and than he turned away hys vysage and wepte.

Than the quene had allwayes a lytyll brachett that sir Trystramys gaff hir the first tyme that ever she cam into Cornwayle, and never wold that brachet departe frome her but yf sir Trystram were nyghe thereas was La Beall Isode. ³⁰ And thys brachet was firste sente frome the kynges doughter of Fraunce unto sir Trystrams for grete love.

And anone thys lityll bracket felte a savoure of sir Trystram. He lepté upon hym and lycked hys learys and hys earys, and than he whyned and quested, and she smelld ³⁵

¹ C lyenge by that welle ⁶ C did saufly ^C cast ⁷ C ledde
hym ⁸ C wasshed hym ¹¹ maner *not in C†* ¹² C Soo hit felle
¹⁸ C spered ²⁰ C† rest and repose ²² C she heid ^S she seid ²³⁻⁴ C
me semeth I shold have sene hym here to fore ²⁵ C sawe her ³⁰ C
Tristram was ³⁰⁻⁴ W (*sidenote*): How the brachet of La Beall Isod distreved
syr Trystramys ³¹ firste *not in C†* ³³ C anone as this ³⁴ C* she lepté

at hys feete and at hys hondis and on all the partyes of hys body that she myght com to.

'A, my lady!' seyde dame Brangwayne, 'Alas! I se hit ys myne owne lorde sir Trystramys.'

5 And thereupon La Beall Isode felle downe in a sowne and so lay a grete whyle. And whan she myght speke she seyde,

'A, my lorde, sir Trystram! Blyssed be God ye have youre lyff! And now I am sure ye shall be discoverde by thys 10 lityll brachet, for she woll never leve you. And also I am sure, as sone as my lorde kynge Marke do know you he woll banysh you oute of the contrey of Cornwayle, othir ellis he woll destroy you. And therefore, for Goddys sake, myne owne lorde, graunte kynge Marke hys wyll, and than draw 15 you unto the courte off kynge Arthur, for there ar ye beloved. And ever whan I may I shall sende unto you, and whan ye lyste ye may com unto me, and at all tymes early and late I woll be at youre commaundement, to lyve as poore a lyff as ever ded quyene or lady.'

206^r 20 'A, madame!' seyde sir Trystramys, 'go frome me, for much angir and daunger have I ascaped for your love.'

(22) Than the quene departed, but the brachet wolde nat frome hym, and therewithall cam kynge Marke, and the brachet sate uppon hym and bayed at them all. And therewithall sir

25 Andred spake and sayde,

'Sir, thys ys sir Trystramys, I se well by that brachet.'

'Nay,' seyde the kynge, 'I can nat suppose that.'

Than the kyng asked hym uppon hys faythe what he was and what was hys name.

30 'So God me helpe,' seyde he, 'my name ys sir Trystramys de Lyones. Now do by me what ye lyst.'

'A,' sayde kynge Marke, 'me repentis of youre recoverynge.'

And so he lete calle hys barownes to geve jugemente unto 35 sir Trystramys to the dethe. Than many of hys barownes wolde nat assente thereto, and in especiall sir Dynas the

3 C Brangwayn vnto la beale Isoud Allas allas said she I see W Brangwayne
 seyde Alas I se 8 A not in C 13 And therefore not in C 15 C Conrete
 S Courte 20 C O madame 20-1 C for mykel anger 26 well not in C
 29 C† what was was 32-3 C your recouer 34-5 C to Iuge sir Tristrum

Senesciall and sir Fergus. And so by the avyse of them all sir Trystramys was banysshed orte of the contrey for ten yere, and thereupon he toke hys othe uppon a booke before the kynge and hys barownys.

And so he was made to departe orte of the contrey of Cornwayle, and there were many barownes brought hym unto hys shyp, that som were of hys frendis and som were of hys fooyis.

And in the meanewhyle there cam a knyght of kynge Arthurs, and hys name was sir Dynadan, and hys commyng ¹⁰ was for to seke aftir sir Trystram. Than they shewed hym where he was, armed at all poyntis, going to the shyp.

'Now, fayre knyght,' seyde sir Dynadan, 'or ye passe thys courte, that ye woll juste with me [I requyre the].'

'With a good wyll,' seyde sir Trystramys, 'and these ¹⁵ lordes woll gyffe me leve.'

Than the barownes graunted thereto, and so they ranne ^{206v} togydir, and there sir Trystramys gaff sir Dynadan a falle. And than he prayde sir Trystram of hys jantylnes to gyff ^{2c} hym leve to go in hys felyshyp.

'Ye shall be ryght wellcom,' seyd he.

And than sir Trystramys and sir Dynadan toke their horsys and rode to their shyppys togydir. And whan sir Trystramys was in the se he seyde,

'Grete well kyng Marke and all myne enemyes,^{*} and sey ²⁵ to hem I woll com agayne whan I may. And sey hym well am I rewarded for the fyghtyng with sir Marhalt, and deleyverd all hys contrey frome servayge. And well am I rewarded for the fecchynge and costis of quene Isode orte off Irelonde and the daunger that I was in firste and laste. ³⁰ And by the way commyng home what daunger I had to brynge agayne quene Isode frome the Castell Pleure! And well am I rewarded whan I fought with sir Bleoberys for sir Segwarydes wyff. And well am I rewarded whan I faught with sir Blamoure de Ganys for kyng Angwysh, fadir unto ³⁵ La Beall Isode.

¹ C by thaduyse ⁶⁻⁹ W (*sidenote*): How sir Trystrams geff sir Dynadan a falle ⁷⁻⁸ C shyp of the whiche somme were his frendes & somme his foes
¹⁰ C Arthurs his sir not in C ¹⁹ of hys jantylnes not in C† ²¹⁻² C said thenne sire Tristram and soo they took ²⁶ to not in C sey hym not in C† ³² C castel Pluere ³³ C I am

'And well am I rewarded whan I smote down the good knyght sir Lamerok de Galis at kynge Markes requeste. And well am I rewarded whan I faught with the Kynge with the Hondred Knygthes and the kynge of North Galys, and 5 both thes wolde have put hys londe in servayge, and by me they were put to a rebuke. And well am I rewarded for the sleyng of Tauleas, the myghty gyaunte. And many othir dedys have I done for hym, and now have I my waryson!

'And telle kynge Marke that many noble knyghtes 10 of the Rounde Table have spared the barownes of thys contrey for my sake. And also, I am nat well rewarded whan I fought with the good knyght sir Palomydes and rescowed quene Isode frome hym. And at that tyme kynge Marke seyde afore all hys barownes I sholde have bene bettir 15 rewarded.'

And furthewithall he toke the see.

And at the nexte londyng faste by the see there mette 20 with sir Trystram and with sir Dynadan sir Ector de Marys and sir Bors de Ganys, and there sir Ector justed with sir Dynadan and he smote hym and hys horse downe. And than sir Trystram wolde have justed with sir Bors, and sir Bors seyde that he wolde nat juste with no Cornyssh knyghtes, for they ar nat called men of worship. And all thys was done upon a brydge.

25 And with thys cam sir Bleoberys and sir Dryaunte, and sir Bleoberys profird to juste with sir Trystram, [and there sir Trystram] smote downe sir Bleoberys. Than seyde sir Bors de Ganys,

'I wiste never Cornysh knyght of so grete a value nor so 30 valyaunte as that knyght that beryth the trappours en-browdred with crownyss.'

And than sir Trystram and sir Dynadan departed from them into a foreyst, and there mette them a damesell that cam for the love of sir Launcelot to seke aftir som noble 35 knyghtes of kynge Arthurs courte for to rescow sir Launcelot. For he was ordayneid for by the treason of quene Morgan le

² C Lamorak ⁶ C I am ¹⁰ C table roûd ¹¹ And *not in C* ^C

am I not ¹⁶ W and furthe wt all and furthe with all C nad forth with alle

²⁵ C Dryaunt 35-p. 505, 1 C launcelot and soo sir launcelott was ordeyneid for by the treason of quene Morgan le fay to haue slayne sir launcelot

Fay to have slayne hym, and for that cause she ordayned thirty knyghtes to lye in wayte for sir Launcelot.

And thys damesell knew thys treson, and for thys cause she cam for to seke noble knyghtis to helpe sir Launcelot; for that nyght other the day affter sir Launcelot sholde com where thes thirty knyghtes were.

And so thys damesell mette with sir Bors and sir Ector and with sir Dryaunte, and there she told hem all four of the treson of Morgan le Fay. And than they promysed her that they wolde be nyghe her whan sir Launcelot shold mete with ¹⁰ the thirty knyghtes.

'And if so be they sette uppon hym, we woll do rescowis as we can.'

So the damesell departed, and by adventure she mette with sir Trystram and with sir Dynadan, and there the ¹⁵ **207^v** damesell tolde hem of all the treson that was ordayned for sir Launcelot.

'Now, fayre damesell,' seyde sir Trystram, 'brynge me to that same place where they shold mete with sir Launcelot.'

Than seyde sir Dynadan,

²⁰

'What woll ye do? Hit ys nat for us to fyght with thirty knyghtes, and wyte you well I woll nat thereoff! As to macche o knyght, two or three ys inow and they be men, but for to matche fiftene knyghtes, that I woll never undir-take.'

²⁵

'Fy for shame!' seyde sir Trystram, 'do but youre parte!'

'Nay,' seyde sir Dynadan, 'I woll nat thereoff but iff ye woll lende me your shylde. For ye bere a shylde of Corn-wayle, and for the cowardyse that ys named to the knyghtes of Cornwayle by youre shyldys ye bene ever forborne.'

³⁰

'Nay,' sayde sir Trystram, 'I woll nat departe frome my shylde for her sake that gaff hit me. But one thyng,' seyde sir Trystram, 'I promyse the, sir Dynadan: but if thou wolte promyse me to abyde with me ryght here I shall sle the. For I desyre no more of the but answe one knyght.' ³⁵ And yf thy harte woll nat serve the, stonde by and loke uppon!'

'Sir,' seyde sir Dynadan, 'I woll promyse you to looke

² C in a wayte ⁵ the *not in S*
damoisel met

²³ C one knyght

¹⁰ C nyghe where sire
²⁸ Clene me

¹⁴ C the
³⁷ C vpon me and them

uppon and to do what I may to save myselff, but I wolde I had nat mette with you.'

So than anone thes thirty knyghtes cam faste by thes four knyghtes, and they were ware of them, and aythir of other.

5 And so thes thirty knyghtes lette *(them passe)* for thys cause, that they wolde nat wrath them if case be they had ado with sir Launcelot. And the four knyghtes lette them passe to thys entente, that they wolde se and beholde what they wolde do with sir Launcelot.

10 And so the thirty knyghtes paste on and cam by sir Trystram and by sir Dynadan, and than sir Trystramys cryed on hyght:

'Lo here ys a knyght ayenste you for the love of sir Launcelot!'

15 And there he slew two with a speare and ten with hys swerde. And than cam in sir Dynadan and he ded passyng 208^r welle. And so of the thirty knyghtes there yoode but ten away, and they fledde.

And all thys batayle saw sir Bors de Ganys and hys three 20 felowys, and than they saw well hit was the same knyght that justed with hem at the brydge. Than they toke their horsys and rode unto sir Trystramys and praysed hym and thanked hym of hys good dedys. And they all desyred sir Trystram to go with them to their lodgynge, and he seyde he wold nat 25 go to no lodgynge. Than they four knyghtes prayde hym to telle hys name.

'Fayre lordys,' seyde sir Trystramys, 'as at thys tyme I woll nat telle you my name.'

(24) Than sir Trystram and sir Dynadan rode forthe their way 30 tylle they cam to shyperdis and to herdemen. And there they asked them if they knew ony lodgynge there nerehonde.

'Sir,' seyde the herdemen, 'hereby ys good herberow in a castell, but there ys such a custom that there shall no knyght herberow there but if he juste with two knyghtes, and if he 35 be but o knyght he muste juste with two knyghtes. And as ye be, sone shall ye be macched.'

6 C caas be 12 C on hyghe 15 C† with one sperd 17 C there
wente 24 C he said nay he wold not 25 C they alle four 26 C telle
hem his 31 C nyghe hand 32 C Forsothe syrs sayde the C
good lodgynge in 33-4 C knyghte be herberowed but 35 C but one
35-6 C two And as ye be therin soone

'There ys shrewde herberow!' seyde sir Dynadan. 'Lodge where ye woll, for I woll nat lodge there.'

'Fye for shame!' seyde sir Trystramys, 'ar ye nat a knyght of the Table Rounde? Wherfore ye may nat with your worship reffuse your lodgynge.'

'Not so,' seyde the herdemen, 'for and ye be beatyn and have the warse, ye shall nat be lodged there, and if ye beate them ye shall well be herberowed.'

'A,' seyde sir Dynadan, 'I undirstonde they ar two good knyghtes.'

10

Than sir Dynadan wolde nat lodge there in no maner but as sir Trystramys requyred hym of hys knyghthode, and so they rode thydir. And to make shorte tale, sir Trystram and sir Dynadan smote hem downe bothe, and so they entirde into the castell and had good chere as they cowde 15 thynke or devyse.

And whan they were unarmed and thought to be myry and in good reste, there cam in at the yatis sir Palomydes and sir Gaherys, requyryng to have the custum of [the] castell.

20

'What aray ys thys?' seyde sir Dynadan, 'I wolde fayne have my reste.'

'That may nat be,' seyde sir Trystram. 'Now muste we 208^v nedis defende the custum of thys castell insomuch as we have the bettir of this lordes of thys castell. And therefor,' 25 seyde sir Trystram, 'nedis muste ye make you redy.'

'In the devyls name,' seyde sir Dynadan, 'cam I into youre company!'

And so they made them redy, and sir Gaherys encountirde with sir Trystram, and sir Gaherys had a falle. And sir 30 Palomydes encountirde with sir Dynadan, and sir Dynadan had a falle: than was hit falle for falle. So than muste they fyght on foote, and that wolde nat sir Dynadan, for he was sore brused of that falle that sir Palomydes gaff hym.

Than sir Trystramys laced on sir Dynadans helme and 35 prayde hym to helpe hym.

'I woll nat,' seyde sir Dynadan, 'for I am sore wounded of

7 C the wers
S knyghthode
vnlace syre

8 C be wel

21 fayne

not in C†

9 I undirstonde not in C

33 and not in C

12 C knyghthode

35 C Tristram

the thirty knyghtes that we had ado withall. But ye fare,'
 seyde sir Dynadan, 'as a man [that] were oute of hys mynde
 that wold caste hymselff away. And I may curse the tyme
 that ever I sye you, for in all the worlde ar nat such two
 5 knyghtes that ar so wood as ys sir Launcelot and ye, sir
 Trystram! For onys I felle in the felyshyp of sir Launcelot
 as I have done now with you, and he sette me so a worke thāt
 a quarter of a yere I kept my bedde. Jesu deffende me,' seyde
 sir Dynadan, 'frome such two knyghtys, and specially frome
 10 youre felyshyp.'

Than seyde sir Trystram, 'I woll fyght with hem bothe!'

And anone sir Trystram bade hem com forthe bothe, 'for
 I woll fyght with you'. Than sir Palomydes and sir Gaherys
 dressed and smote at hem bothe. Than sir Dynadan smote
 15 at sir Gaherys a stroke or two, and turned frome hym.

'Nay!' seyde sir Palomydes. 'Hit ys to much shame for
 us two knyghtes to fyght with one!' And than he ded
 bydde sir Gaherys, 'Stonde asyde with that knyght that
 hath no lyste to fyght.'

20 Than they rode togydirs and fought longe, and at the
 laste sir Trystram doubled hys stroke and drove sir Palo-
 209^r mydes abak more than three stryddys. And than by one
 assente sir Gaherys and sir Dynadan wente betwyxte them
 and departed them in sundir.

25 And than by the assente of sir Trystramys they wolde
 have lodged togydirs, but sir Dynadan seyde he wold nat
 lodge in that castell. And than he cursed the tyme thāt ever
 he com in theyre felyship, and so he toke hys horse and hys
 harneyse and departed.

30 Than sir Trystram prayde the lordys of that castell to
 lende hym a man to bryng hym to a lodgyng. And so they
 ded, and overtoke sir Dynadan and rode to hir lodgyng,
 two myle thens, with a good man in a pryory; and there they
 were well at ease.

35 And that same nyght sir Bors and sir Bleoberys and sir
 Ector and sir Dryaunt abode styll in the same place thereas

1 C hadde but late agoō to doo with alle 2 C Dynadan vnto syr Trystram
 as a madde man and as a man þt is oute of 5 C that ben so 7 so not in C

12 C Thenne syr 14 C dressid them and sir not in C 20-1 C
 atte last 21 C strokes 26 seyde he not in C 28 C† their feauship

31 C lene hym

sir Trystram faught with [the] thirty knyghtes. And there they mette with sir Launcelot the same nyght, and had made promyse to lodge with sir Collgrevaunce the same nyght.

But anone as sir Launcelot harde of the shylde of Corn- (25)
wayle, he wiste well hit was sir Trystram that had fought
with hys enemyes, and than sir Launcelot praysed sir
Trystram and called hym the man of moste worshyp in the
worlde.

So there was a knyght in that pryory that hyght sir Pellynore, and he desyred to wete the name of sir Trystram, 10
but in no wyse he coude nat. And so sir Trystram departed
and lefft sir Dynadan in that pryory, for he was so wery
and so sore brused that he myght nat ryde. Than thys
knyght sir Pellynore seyde unto sir Dynadan,

'Sith that ye woll nat telle me that knyghtes name, I shall 15
ryde affter hym and make hym to telle me hys name, other
he shall dye therefore.'

'Yet beware, sir knyght,' seyde sir Dynadan, 'for and ye
folow hym ye woll repente hit.'

So that knyght, sir Pellynor, rode aftir sir Trystram and 20
requyred hym of justis. Than sir Trystram smote hym
downe and wounded hym thorow the shulder, and so he 209^v
paste on hys way.

And on the nexte day folowyng sir Trystram mette with
pursyvantis, and they tolde hym that there was made a grete 25
crye of turnemente betwene kynge Carados of Scotlonde
and the kynge of North Galys, and aythir shulde juste agayne
othir afore the Castell of Maydys. And thes pursyvauntis
sought all the contrey aftir good knyghtes, and in especiall
kynge Carados lete make grete sykyng for sir Launcelot, 30
and the kynge of North Galis lete seke specially for sir
Trystramys de Lyones. And at that tyme sir Trystramys
thought to be at that justis.

And so by adventure they mette with sir Kay the Sene-
sciall and sir Sagramoure le Desirous, and sir Kay requyred 35

1 *W* with sir Trystramys xxxtⁱ knyghtes *C** with the thirtty knyghtes 4
C as the noble Knyghte syre 5 *C* thenne wiste he wel that hyt was 9 sir *not*
in C 12 *C* the prory 15 *C* I will 18 Yet *not in C* 19 *C* ye
 shalle 21 *C† si* Tristram 27 *C* kynge of Northwalys 28 *C* at the
 30 grete *not in C* *C launcelot du lake* 31 *C* seke after sir 32 *Clyonas*
 34-5 *C* seneschal and syr Sagramor le desyrus

syr Trystram to juste. And sir Trystram in a maner refused hym, bycause he wolde nat be hurte nothir brused ayenste the grete justis that shuld [be] before the Castell of Maydyns, and therefore he thought to reste hym and to repose hym.

5 And allway sir Kay cryed,

'Sir knyght of Cornwayle, juste with me, othir ellys yelde the to me as recreaunte!'

Whan sir Trystram herd hym sey so he turned unto hym, and than sir Kay refused hym and turned hys backe. Than

10 sir Trystram sayde,

'As I fynde the, I shall take the!'

Than sir Kay turned with evyll wyll, and sir Trystram smote sir Kay downe, and so he rode forthe.

Than sir Sagramoure le Desirous rode aftir sir Trystram 15 and made hym to juste with hym. And there sir Trystram smote downe sir Sagramoure frome hys horse and rode hys way.

And the same day he mette with a damesell that tolde hym that he sholde wynne grete worshyp of a knyght 20 aventures that ded much harme in all that contrey. Whan sir Trystramys herde her sey so he was glad to go with her to wyn worshyp. And so sir Trystram rode with that

210^r damesell a six myle.

And than there mette with hym sir Gawayne, and there- 25 withall sir Gawayne knew the damesell, that she was longynge to quyne Morgan le Fay. Than sir Gawayne undirstood that she lad that kynghht to som myschyeff, and sayde,

'Fayre knyght, whothir ryde ye now with that damesell?'

'Sir,' seyde sir Trystram, 'I wote nat whothir I shall ryde 30 but as thys damesell woll lede me.'

'Sir,' seyde sir Gawayne, 'ye shall nat ryde with her, for she and her lady ded never goode but yll.'

And than sir Gawayne pulled oute hys swerde and seyde,

'Damesell, but yf thou telle me anone for what cause thou 35 ledyst thys knyght, thou shalt dye for hit ryght anone, for I know all youre ladyes treson and yourys.'

4 C to repose hym and to reste hym
le desyrys 20 C aduenturous

Morgan 27-8 C meschyef Faire knyght said sire Gawayne whyder

what what

25-6 C* was a damoysel of Quene

I

8 C to hym

14, 16 C Sagramore

25-6 C† was a damoysel of Quene

I

35-6 C knyȝt with the thou shalt dye for hit ryght anon I

knowe

'A, mercy, sir Gawayne,' seyde she, 'and yff ye woll save my lyff I woll telle you.'

'Say on,' seyde sir Gawayne, 'and thou shalt have thy lyff.'

'Sir,' she seyde, 'quene Morgan, my lady, hath ordayneid a thirty ladyes to seke and aspye aftir sir Launcelot or aftir sir Trystram, and by the traynys of thes ladyes, who that may fyrste mete ony of thes two knyghtes, they shulde turne hem unto Morgan le Fayes castell, sayyng that they sholde do dedys of worship. And yf ony of tho two knyghtes cam, there be thirty knyghtes liyng and wacchynge in a towre to 10 wayte uppon sir Launcelot or uppon sir Trystramys.'

'Fy for shame,' seyde sir Gawayne, 'that evir such false treson sholde be wrought or used in a quene and a kyngys systir, and a kynge and a quenys doughtir! Sir,' seyde sir (26) Gawayne, 'wyll ye stonde with me, and we woll se the 15 malyce of thes knyghtes.'

'Sir,' seyde sir Trystram, 'go ye to them and hit please you, and ye shall se I woll nat fayle you, for hit ys not longe ago syn I and a fellow mette with thirty [knyghtes] of the quenys felyship, and God sped us so that we won away with worship.' 20

So than sir Gawayne and sir Trystram rode towarde the 210^v castell where Morgan le Fay was; and ever sir Gawayne demed that he was sir Trystram de Lyones, bycause he hard that two knyghtes had slain and beatyn thirty knyghtes. And whan they cam afore the castell sir Gawayne speake on 25 hyght and seyde,

'Quene Morgan, sende oute youre knyghtes that ye have layde in wacche for sir Launcelot and for sir Trystram. Now,' seyde sir Gawayne, 'I know youre false treson, and all placis where that I ryde shall know of youre false treson. 30 And now lat se,' seyde sir Gawayne, 'whethir ye dare com oute of youre castell, ye thirty knyghtes.'

Than the quene spake and all the thirty knyghtes at onys, and seyde,

'A, sir Gawayne, full well wotist thou what thou dost and 35 seyst, for, pardé, we know the passyng well. But all that

¹ A not in C C she said ⁴ C Morgan le fay ⁵⁻⁶ C or sir ¹⁰ C
 C* there there ¹⁶ C these thyrty knyghtes ¹⁹ C of that ²⁰ C
 we may wynne worship ²⁷ C Morgan le fay ²⁹⁻³⁰ C* and thorou all
 places where that I ryde men shall knowe ³¹ seyde not in C† ³⁵ A
 not in C ³⁶ C For by god we

thou spekyst and doyst, thou sayste hit upon pryme of that good knyght that ys there with the. For there be som of us know the hondys of that good knyght overall well. And wyte thou well, sir Gawayne, 'hit is more for his sake than 5 for thyn that we woll not come oute of this castel, for wete ye well, sir Gawayne', the knyght that beryth the armys of Cornwayle, we know hym and what he ys.'

Than sir Gawayne and sir Trystram departed and rode on their wayes a day or two togydirs, and there by adventure 10 they mette with sir Kay and with sir Sagramour le Desyrous. And than they were glad of sir Gawayne and he of them, but they wylt nat what he was with the shylde of Cornwayle but by demyng.

And thus they rode togydirs a day or too, and than they 15 were ware of sir Breuse Saunz Pité chasyng a lady for to have slayne her, for he had slayn her paramour afore.

'Holde you all styll,' seyde sir Gawayne, 'and shew none of you forth, and ye shall se me rewarde yonder false knyght: for and he aspye you, he ys so well horsed that he 20 woll ascape away.'

211^r And than sir Gawayne rode betwixt sir Breuse and the lady and sayde,

'False knyght, leve her and have ado with me!'

So whan sir Brewse saw no man but sir Gawayne, he 25 feautred hys speare, and sir Gawayne ayenste hym. And there sir Breuse overthrew sir Gawayne, and than he rode [over] hym and overtwarde hym twenty tymys to have destroyed hym.

And [whan] sir Trystram saw hym do so vylaunce a dede 30 he hurled oute ayenste hym, and whan sir Breuse hym saw with the shylde of Cornwayle he knew hym well that hit was sir Trystram. And than he fledde, and sir Trystrams folowed hym, and so sir Breuse was so horsed that he wente hys way quyte. And sir Trystram folowed hym longe affter, for he 35 wolde fayne have bene avenged uppon hym.

3 C knownen full wel the handes of that knyght ouer alle wel 4-6 F (MS. B.N. fr. 103 f. 184^r col. 1): 'Messire Gauvain, sachis que la paour de vous ne nous fait pas ceans demourer, ainchois le fait meilleur de vous; car s'il n'eust la hors fors vous, vous trouvissies bien qui s'alaist combatre a vous.' *Homoeoteleton* in W 15 C Breuse sauce pyte 24 C† syre gayne 32-3 C folowed after hym 33 C and Breuse saunce pyte 34 after not in C

And so whan he had longe chaced hym he saw a fayre well,
and thydir he rode to repose hym, and tyed hys horse tylle
a tre. And than he pulled of hys helme and waysshed hys (27)
vysayge and hys hondes, and so he felle on slepe.

And so in the meanewhyle cam a damesell that had sought
sir Trystram many wayes and dayes within thys londe.
And whan she cam to the welle she loked uppon hym and
had forgotyn hym as in remembraunce of sir Trystrames,
but by hys horse she knew hym, that hyght Passe-Brewell,
that had ben hys horse many yerys; for whan he was madde (10)
in the foreyste sir Fergus kepte hym. So thys lady, dame
Brangwayne, abode styll tylle he was awake. And whan she
saw hym awaked she salewed hym and he her agayne, for
aythir knew other of olde acquyentaunce. Than she tolde
sir Trystram how she had sought hym longe and brode, and (15)
there she tolde hym how she had lettirs frome the quene La
Beall Isode. Than anone [sir Trystram redde them, and wete
ye well he was gladde, for therein was many a pyteous com-
playnte. Than sir Trystram] sayde,

'Lady, dame Brangwayne, ye shall ryde with me tylle the (20)
turnemente be done at the Castell of Maydyns. And than 211^v
shall ye beare lettirs and tdynges with you.'

And than sir Trystram toke hys horse and sought
lodgynge, and there he mette with a good aunciaunte knyght
and prayde hym to lode with hym. Ryght so com Gover- (25)
nayle unto sir Trystram that was glad of the commyng of
the lady. And thys oldē knyghtes name was sir Pellownes,
and he tolde hym of the grete turnemente that shulde be at
the Castell of Maydyns: 'And there sir Launcelot and two
and twenty knyghtes of hys blood have ordayne shyldis of (30)
Cornwayle.'

And ryght so there com one unto sir Pellownes and tolde
hym that sir Persides de Bloyse was com home. Than that
knyght hylde up hys hondys and thanked God of hys

3 C† Capitulum XVII 10 C ben sire Tristrmas hors 13 Chym wake
 14-15 C told hym how 17-20 W anone seyde lady dame Bragwayne C*
 anon sire Tristram redde them and wete ye well he was gladde for theryn was
 many a pyteous complaynte Thenne sir Tristram said lady Brangwayne W's
 reading is an example of a 'combined error': a homoeoteleuton caused by the recurrence
 of sir Trystram and followed by the omission of these words (see note) 20 C tyl
 that 24 C auncyent 25-6 C† Gonernaile S Gouernaile 26 of
 the commyng not in C 29-30 C and xxxii knyȝtes 30 C ordeyned

commyngh home, and there sir Pellownes tolde sir Trystram that of two yere afore he had nat sene hys son, sir Persydes.

'Sir,' seyde sir Trystramys, 'I know youre son well inowgh for a good knyght.'

5 And so one tyme sir Trystramys and sir Persydes com to their lodgyng both at onys, and so they unarmed h[e]m and put uppon them such clothynge as they had. And than thes two knyghtes ech wellcomyd other, and whan sir Persides undirstood that sir Trystram was of Cornwayle he

10 seyde he was onys in Cornwayle,

'And there I justed before kynge Marke, and so hit happened me at that same day to overthrow ten knyghtis. And than cam to me sir Trystramys de Lyonas and overthrew me, and toke my lady fro me, and that shall I never

15 forgete, but I shall remembir me and ever I se my tyme.'

'A,' sayde sir Trystram, 'now I undirstonde that ye hate sir Trystram. What deme you? That sir Trystram ys nat able to withstande youre malyce?'

'Yes,' seyde sir Persydes, 'I know well that sir Trystram

20 ys a noble knyght and a muche bettir knyght than I am, yet

I shall nat owghe hym my good wyll.'

212^r Ryght as they stood thus talkynge at a bay-wyndow of that castell, they sye many knyghtes ryde to and fro toward the turnemente. And than was sir Trystram ware of a lykly

25 knyght rydyng uppon a grete blacke horse, and a blacke coverde shylde.

'What knyght ys that,' seyde sir Trystram, 'with the blacke shylde and the blacke horse?'

'I know hym well,' seyde sir Persides, 'he ys one of the

30 beste knyghtes of the worlde.'

'Than hit ys sir Launcelot,' seyde sir Trystramys.

'Nay,' seyde sir Persides, 'hit ys sir Palomydes that ys yett oncrystynde.'

(28) Than they saw muche people of the contrey salew sir

35 Palomydes, and seyde with a lowde voice,

'Jesu save the and kepe the, thou noble knyght sir Palomydes!'

2 C that in two yeres he 5 C soo on a tyme 6 W unarmed hym C*
 unarmed hem 7 C vpon hem their clothynge And, 14 C lady awey from
 17 C* deme ye wene ye that 28-9 C* black hors & the blak sheld he semeth
 (S semes) a good knyȝt I 35-7 and . . . Palomydes *not in C†*

And within a whyle aftir there cam a squyer of that castell that tolde sir Pellownes, that was lorde of that castell, that a knyght with a blacke shylde had smyttyn downe thirtene knyghtes.

'Now, fayre brother,' seyde sir Trystram unto sir Persydes, 'lat us caste on us lyght clokys, and lat us go se that play.'

'Not so,' seyde sir Persides, 'we woll nat go lyke knavys thydir, but we woll ryde lyke men and as good knyghtes to withstonde oure enemyes.'

So they armed them and toke their horsys and grete spearys, and thydir they rode thereas many knyghtes assayed themselff byfore the turnemente. And anone sir Palamydes saw sir Persides, and than he sente a squyar unto hym and seyde,

'Go thou to the yondir knyght with the grene shyld and therein a lyon of gooldys, and say hym I requyre hym to juste with me, and telle hym that my name ys sir Palomydes.'

Whan sir Persides undirstood the rekeyst of sir Palomydes he made hym redy. And there anone they mette togydirs, but sir Persides had a falle.

• Than sir Trystram dressed hym to be revenged uppon sir Palomydes. And that saw sir Palomydes that was redy, and so was nat sir Trystram, and toke hym at avauntayge and smote hym over hys horse tayle, whan he had no speare in hys reste.

Than sterte up sir Trystram, and toke horse lyghtly, and was wrothe oute of mesure and sore ashamed of that falle. Than sir Trystramys sente unto sir Palomydes by Gover- nayle and prayde hym to juste with hym at hys rekeyste.

'Nay,' seyde sir Palomydes, 'as at thys tyme I woll nat juste with that knyght, for I know hym bettir than he wenyth. And if he be wroth, he may ryght hit to-morne at the Castell Maydyns, where he may se me and many other knyghtes.'

1-2 C the castel 6 C† vpon vs clokes 6-7 C the play 12 C they went 28 C took his hors 34-p. 516, 7 W (sidenote): How sir Trystram was takyn at avauntage or he was redy by sir Palomydes and had a fall 35 C castel of maydens

So with that cam sir Dynadan, and whan he saw sir Trystram wroth he lyste nat to jape, but seyde,

'Lo, sir Trystram, here may a man preve, be he never so good yet may he have a falle; and he was never so wyse
5 but he myght be oversayne, and he rydyth well that never felle.'

So sir Trystram was passyng wrothe and seyde to sir Persides and to sir Dynadan,

'I woll revenge me!'

10 Ryght so as they stooede talkynge, there cam by sir Trystram a lykly knyght, rydyng passyng sobirly and hevyly, with a blacke shylde.

'What knyght ys that?' seyde sir Trystram unto sir Persides.

15 'I know hym well,' seyde sir Persides, 'for hys name ys sir Bryaunte of Northe Walis.'

And so he paste on amonge other knyghtes of North Walis. And there com in sir Launcelot de Lake with a shylde of the armys of Cornwayle, and he sente a squyer
20 unto sir Bryaunte and requyred hym to juste with hym.

'Well,' seyde sir Bryaunte, 'syttyn that I am requyred to juste, I woll do what I may.'

And there sir Launcelot smote downe sir Bryaunte frome hys horſe a grete falle. And than sir Trystram mervayled
25 what knyght he was that bar the shylde of Cornwayle.

'Sir, whatsoever he be,' seyde sir Dynadan, 'I warraunte he ys of king Bannys blode, whiȝt bene knyghtes of the nobelyst proues in the worlde, for to accompte so many for so many.'

30 Than there cam in two knyghtes of North Galys, that one
213^r hyght sir Hew de la Mountayne, and the other sir Madok de la Mountayne, and they chalenged sir Launcelot foote-hote, sir Launcelot not refusyng hem, but made hym redy,
35 and with one grete speare he smote downe bothe over their horse taylis, and so sir Launcelot rode hys way.

2-3 C to Iape lo sayd sir Dynadan here may	3 C Be a man neuer	5	
C ouersene	10 C there there	16 C Bryaunt of Northwalys	21 C
Bryant S Bryaunt	23 C smote donne (S doun)	25-6 C Cornewaile	
what so euer	26-7 C warante you he	27 C blood the whiche	27-8
C the moost noble prowesse	30 in not in C	31 C Hewe	34-5 C one
spere he smote hem doune bothe ouer their hors croupes			

'By thè good Lorde,' seyde sir Trystram, 'he ys a good knyght that beryth the shylde of Cornwayle, and mesemyth he rydith on the beste maner that ever I saw knyght ryde.'

Than the kynge of North Galis rode unto sir Palomydes and prayed him hartely for hys sake 'to juste with that knyght that hath done us of North Galis dispite.'

'Sir,' seyde sir Palomydes, 'I am full lothe to have ado with that knyght, and cause why as to-morne the grete turnemente shall be. And therefore I wolde kepe myself freyssh be my wyll.'

'Nay,' seyde the kynge of North Galis, 'I pray you, requyre hym of justis.'

'Sir,' seyde sir Palomydes, 'I woll juste at youre requeste, and requyre that knyght to juste with me. And oftyn I have seyne a man at hys owne requeste have a grete falle.'

Than sir Palomydes sente unto sir Launcelot a squyre (29) and requyred hym to juste,

'Fayre felow,' seyde sir Launcelot, 'tell me thy lordis name.'

'Sir, my lordys name ys sir Palomydes, the good knyght.'

'In good owre,' seyde sir Launcelot, 'for there ys no knyght I saw thys seven yere that I had levir have ado with-all.'

And so ayther knyghtes made them redy with two grete spearys.

'Nay,' seyde sir Dynadan, 'ye shall se that sir Palomydes woll quyte hym ryght well.'

'Hyt may be so,' seyde sir Trystram, 'but I undirtake that knyght with the shylde of Cornwayle shall gyff hym a falle.'

'I beleve hit nat,' seyde sir Dynadan.

Ryght [so] they spurred their horsis and feautred their spearys, and aythir smote other. And sir Palomydes brake a speare uppon sir Launcelot, and he sate and meved nat. But sir Launcelot smote hym so harde that he made hys horse

³ *C* in the best ⁸ *C* cause why is for as ¹⁶ *C† Capitulum XIX* ¹⁷
C of Iustes ²²⁻³ *C* knyght that I sawe thys seuen yeres that I had leuer adoo

with all than with hym ³⁵ *C† smote hym so lyghtly* *F (MS. B.N. fr. 334*

f. 227^r col. 2): Et Lancelot du Lac fierc Palamedes si roidement de si grant force

en mi le piz que il n'a pas tant de poor que il puisse le cop soustenir, ançois vole

du cheval a terre

213^v to avoyde the sadill, and the stroke brake hys shylde and the hawbarke, and had he nat fallyn he had be slayne.

'How now?' seyde sir Trystram. 'I wyst well by the maner of their rydynge bothe that sir Palomydes shulde have a falle.'

5 Ryght so sir Launcelot rode hys way, and rode to a well to drynke and repose hym. And they of North Galis aspyed hym whoter he wente. And than there folowed hym twelve knyghtes for to have myscheved hym for thys cause, that upon the morne at the turnemente at the Castell of
10 Maydyns that he sholde nat wyn the victory.

So they com uppon sir Launcelot suddeynly, and unnethe he myght put on hys helme and take hys horse but they were in hondis with hym. And than sir Launcelot gate hys speare in hys honde and ran thorow them, and there he slew a
15 knyght and brake hys speare in hys body. Than he drew hys swerde and smote uppon the ryght honde and uppon the lyffte honde, that within a few strokis he had slayne other three knyghtes, and the remenaunte that abode he wounded hem sore, all that ded abyde. Thus sir Launcelot ascaped
20 fro hys enemyes of Northe Walis.

And than sir Launcelot rode hys way tylle a frynde, and lodged hym tylle on the morowe, for he wolde nat the firste day have ado in the turnemente bycause of hys grete laboure. And on the first day he was with kynge Arthur, thereas he
25 was sette on hye uppon a chafflet to d[i]fserne who was beste worthy of hys dedis. So sir Launcelot was with kynge Arthur and justed nat the first day.

7 C whyther he rode

13-14 C spere and rode thorou

9 C of the castel

17 C lyfte hand soo that

12 C putte vpon hym

25 C vpon a schaffold

V

THE CASTLE OF MAIDENS

[*Winchester Ms., ff. 213^v-222^v;*
Caxton, Book IX, chs. 30-37.]

CAXTON'S RUBRICS

30. How syr Trystram byhaved hym the fyrst day of the tournement,
and there he had the prys.
31. How syr Trystram retourned ayenst kyng Arthurs partye bycause
he sawe syr Palomydes on that partye.
32. How syr Trystram fonde Palomydes by a welle and broughte
hym wyth hym to his lodgyng.
33. How syr Trystram smote doun sir Palomydes, and how he justed
wyth kyng Arthur, and other feates.
34. How syr Launcelot hurte syr Trystram, and how after syr
Trystram smote doun syr Palomydes.
35. How the prys of the thyrd day was gyven to syr Launcelot and
syr Launcelot gaf it to syr Trystram.
36. How Palomydes came to the castel where syr Trystram was, and
of the queste that syr Launcelot and ten knyghtes made for syr
Tristram.
37. How syr Trystram, syr Palomydes, and syr Dynadan were
taken and put in pryson.

HERE BEGYNNYTH THE TURNEMENT OF THE CASTEL MAYDYN.
THE FYRSTE DAY.

NOW turne we unto sir Trystramys de Lyones that (30)
commaunded Governayle, hys servaunte, to ordayne
hym a blacke shylde with none other remembraunce therein, 5
and so sir Persides and sir Trystramys departed from sir
Pellownes. And they rode erly toward the turnemente,
and than they drew them to kynge Carydos syde of 214^r
Scotlonde.

And anone knyghtes began the filde, what of the kynge 10
of North Galys syde and of kynge Carydos; and there began
a grete party. Than there was hurling and russhyng.
Ryght so cam in sir Persides and sir Trystram, and so they
ded fare that day that they put the kyng of North Galis
abacke. 15

Than cam in sir Bleoberys de Ganys and sir Gaherys with
them of North Galis. And than was sir Persides smytyn
adowne and allmoste slayne, for mo than forty horsemen
wente over hym. For sir Bleoberys ded grete dedes of
armys, and sir Gaherys fayled hym not. 20

Whan sir Tristram behylde them and sye them do such
dedis of armys he mervayled what they were. Also sir
Trystram thought shame that sir Persides was so done to.
And than he gate a grete speare in hys honde, and rode to
sir Gaherys and smote hym down frome hys horse. 25

And than sir Bleoberys was wrothe, and gate a speare
and rode ayenste sir Trystram in grete ire. And there sir
Trystram smote sir Bleoberys frome hys horse. So than the
Kynge with the Hundred Knyghtes was wrothe, and he
horsed sir Bleoberys and sir Gaherys agayne, and there 30
began a grete medlé. And ever sir Trystram hylde them
passyng shorte, and ever sir Bleoberys was passyng bysy
upon sir Trystram.

And there cam in sir Dynadan ayenst sir Trystram, and

1-2 not in C 6-7 C from their hooste syr Pellownes 10-12 C what of
kynge Northgalys party and what of kynge Carados party & there began grete
party 12 C rasshyng 24 C and thenne he rode 26 C
thenne was sire Bleoberys wroth and 28 C Trystram mette with hym and
smote

sir Trystram gaff hym such a buffete that he sowned uppon hys horse. And so anone sir Dynadan cam to sir Trystram and seyde,

'Sir, I know the bettir than thou wenyst, but here I
5 promyse the my trouth, I woll never com agaynst the more,
for I promyse the that swerde of thyne shall never com on
my helme.'

So with that come sir Bleoberys, and sir Trystram gaff
214^v hym such a buffet that downe he abaysshed hys hede; and
10 than he raught hym so sore by the helme that he pulled hym
undir hys feete. And than kyng Arthure blew to lodgyng.

Than sir Trystram departed to hys pavylion, and sir
Dynadan rode with hym, and sir Persides. And kynge
Arthure than, and the kyngis uppon bothe partyes, mer-
15 vayled what knyght that was with the blacke shylde. Many
knygghtis seyde their avyse; and som knew hym for sir
Trystram and hylde their peace and wolde nat say. So that
firste day kynge Arthure and all the kynges and lordis that
were juges gaff sir Trystram the prycce, howbehyt they knew
20 hym nat, but named hym the Knyght with the Blacke
Shylde.

(31) Than upon the morne sir Palomydes returned from the
kynge of North Galis, and rode to kynge Arthurs syde, where
was kynge Carados and the kyng of Irelonde, and sir
25 Launcelottis kynne, and sir Gawaynes kynne. So sir Pal-
omydes sent the damesell unto sir Trystram that he sente to
seke hym whan he was oute of hys mynde in the foreysf, and
this damesell asked sir Trystramys what was hys name and
what he was.
30 'As for that, telle sir Palomydes that he shall nat wete as
at thys tyme, unto the tyme I have brokyn two spearis
upon hym. But lat hym wete thys much, that I am the
same knyght that he smote downe in the over-evenyng at
35 the turnemente, and telle hym playnly on what party that he
be, I woll be of the contrary party.'

'Sir,' seyde the damesell, 'ye shall undirstonde that sir

1-2 C swouned in his sadel Thenne anone
C* his hors feet 16 knygghtis *not in C*
C that said sir Tristram telle ye shalle
telle 33 C in ouer euening

9 C he leyd his hede 11
17 C wold nought say 30
32 C moche said sir Tristram

Palomydes woll be on kynge Arthurs party where the moste noble knyghtes of the worlde be.'

'In the name of God,' seyde sir Trystram, 'than woll I be with the kynge of Northe Galis, because of sir Palomydes woll be on kynge Arthurs syde, and ellis I wolde nat but ⁵ for hys sake.'

So whan kyng Arthure was com they blew unto the fylde, and than there began a grete party. And so kynge Carados ^{215r} justed with the Kynge with the Hundred Knyghtes, and there kynge Carados had a falle. Than was there hurling and ¹⁰ russhyne. And ryght so com in knyghtes of kyng Arthurs, and they bare on bak the kynge of North Galis knyghtes.

Than sir Trystram cam in, and began so rowghly and so bygly that there was none myght withstonde hym, and thus he endured longe. And at the laste by fortune he felle ¹⁵ amonge the felyshyp of kyng Ban. So there fylle uppon hym sir Bors de Ganys, and sir Ector de Marys, and sir Blamour de Ganys, and many oþer knyghtes.

And than sir Trystram smote on the ryght honde and on the lyfste honde, that all lordis and ladyes spake of hys noble ²⁰ dedis. But at the last sir Trystram sholde have had the wars, had nat the Kynge with the Hundred Knyghtes bene. And than he cam with hys felyshyp and rescowed sir Trystram, and brought hym away frome the knyghtes that bare the shyldis of Cornwayle. ²⁵

And than sir Trystram saw another felyship by themselff, and there was a forty knyghtes togydir, and sir Kay le Senescial was their governoure. Than sir Trystram rode in amongyst them, and there he smote downe sir Kay frome hys horse, and there he fared amonge the knyghtis as a ³⁰ grehounde amonge conyes.

Than sir Launcelot founde a knyght that was sore wounded uppon the hede.

'Sir,' seyde sir Launcelot, 'who wounded you so sore?'

'Sir,' he seyde, 'a knyght that bearyth a blacke shylde. ³⁵ And I may curse the tyme that ever I mette with hym, for he ys a devyll and no man.'

¹ C Arthurs syde ² C world ben ⁴ C by cause syr Palomydes
⁹ C kynge of the honderd ¹⁴⁻¹⁵ C thus sire Tristram dured longe And at
'the last syr Trystram felle' ²⁸ C Seneschal ³⁰ C lyke a

So sir Launcelot departed from hym, and thought to mete with sir Trystram, and so he rode with hys swerde idrawyn in hys honde to seke sir Trystram. And than he aspyed hym hurlynge here and there, and at every stroke
 215^v, 5 sir Trystram well-nyghe smote downe a knyght.

'A! mercy Jesu!' seyde sir Launcelot, 'syth the firste tyme that ever I bare armys saw I never one knyght do so mervaylous dedys of armys. And if I sholde,' seyde sir Launcelot to hymselff, 'sette upon thys knyght now, I ded
 10 shame to myselff.'

And therewithall sir Launcelot put up hys swerde.

And than the Kynge with the Hundred Knyghtes, and an hondred mo of North Walis, sette upon the twenty knyghtes of sir Launcelottes kynne, and they twenty knyghtes hylde
 15 them ever togydir as wylde swyne, and none wolde fayle other. So sir Trystram, whan he behylde the nobles of thes twenty knyghtes, he mervayled of their good dedys, for he saw by their fare and rule that they had levyr dye than to avoyde the fylde.

20 'Now, Jesu,' seyde sir Trystram, 'well may [h]e be called valyaunte and full of proues that hath such a sorte of noble knyghtes unto hys kynne. And full lyke ys he to be a nobleman that ys their leder and governoure.'

He mente hit by sir Launcelot du Lake.

25 So whan sir Trystram had beholde them longe he thought s[h]ame to se two hundred knyghtes battering upon twenty knyghtes. Than sir Trystram rode unto the Kynge with the Hundred Knyghtes and seyde,

'Sir, leve your fyghtynge with tho twenty knyghtes, for
 30 ye wynne no worship of them, ye be so many and they so feaw. And wytē you well, they woll nat oute of the fylde, I se by their chere and countenaunce, [and] worship get you none and ye sle them. Therefore leve your fyghtynge with them, for I, to encrese my worship, I woll ryde unto the

3 C drawen 4 C hym how he hurled here and there 6 C† said
 the kyng 6-7 C syth the tyme I bare 7 C neuer no knyght 8-9
 C shold sette vpon this knyght said sir Launcelot to hymself I dyd 13 knyghtes
 not in C 16 C & so whan sir Tristram beheld 18 C fare and by theil
 reule 19 to not in C 20 C* may he be W may ye be called not in
 C 26 W (sidenote; later hand): shame 32 eW countenaunce that wor-
 ship C* countenaunce and worship 34 C eucrēace S encreace

twenty, knyghtes and helpe them with all my myght and power.

'Nay,' seyde the Kynge with the Hundred Knyghtes, 'ye shall nat do so. Now I se youre corayge and curtesye, I woll withdraw my knyghtes for youre plesure, for evermore a ⁵ good knyght woll favoure another, and lyke woll draw to ^{216r} lyke.'

Than the Kynge with the Hundred Knyghtes withdrew hys knyghtes. ⁽³²⁾

And all thys whyle and longe tofore sir Launcelot ¹⁰ had wacched uppon sir Trystram in veary purpose to have felyshipped with hym. And than suddenly sir Trystram, sir Dynadan and Governayle, hys man, rode their way into the foreyste, that no man perceyved where they wente. ¹⁵

So than kynge Arthure blew unto lodgynge, and gaff the kynge of North Galis the prycce, bycause sir Trystram was upon hys syde. Than sir Launcelot rode here and there as wode as a lyon that faughted hys fylle, because he had loste sir Trystram, and so he returned unto kynge Arthure. ²⁰ And than all the felde was in a noyse, that with the wynde hit myght be harde two myle how the lordys and ladyes cryed:

'The Knyght with the Blacke Shylde hath won the fylde!' ²⁵

'Alas,' seyde kynge Arthure, 'where ys that knyght becom? Hit ys shame to all tho in the fylde so to lette hym ascape away frome you, but with jantylnes and curtesye ye myght have brought hym unto me to thys Castell of Maydyns.' ³⁰

Than kynge Arthur wente to hys knyghtes and comforted them, and seyde,

'My fayre felowis, be nat dismayde though ye have loste the fylde thys day.' And many were hurte and sore wounded, and many were hole. 'My felowys,' seyde kyng Arthur, ³⁵ 'loke that ye be of good chere, for to-morn I woll be in the fylde with you and revenge you of youre enemyes.'

¹¹ C with a very

¹⁹ C so wood as lyon

²¹ C in alle the felde was a

²² C two myle thens

³² C* them in the best wyse that he coude and sayd

³³ C dysmayed how be hit ye haue

So that nyght kynge Arthur and hys knyghtes reposed themselff.

So the damesell that com frome La Beall Isod unto sir Trystram, all the whyle the turnement was a-doyng she was 5 with quyene Gwenyvere, and ever the quene asked her for what cause she cam into that contrey.

'Madame,' she answerde, 'I com for none other cause but frome my [lady], La Beall Isode, to wete of youre welfare.'

216^v For in no wyse she wold nat telle the quene that she cam 10 for sir Trystramys sake.

So thys lady, dame Brangwayn, toke hir leve of quene Gwenyver, and she rode aftir sir Trystram. And as she rode thorow the foreyste she harde a grete cry. Than she commaunded hir squyar to go into that foreyste to wyte what was 15 that noyse. And so he cam to a welle, and there he founde a knyght bounden tyll a tre, cryyng as he had bene woode, and his horse and hys harneys stondyng by hym.

And whan he aspyed the squyar, with a brayde he brake hymselff lowse, and toke hys swerde in hys honde and ran 20 to have slayne that squyer. Than he toke hys horse and fledde to dame Brangwayne and tolde hir of hys adventure. Than she rode unto sir Trystramys pavylon, and tolde sir Trystram what adventure she had founde in the foreyste.

'Alas,' seyde sir Trystram, 'uppon my hede, there ys som 25 good knyght at myschyff.'

Than sir Trystram toke hys horse and hys swerde, and rode thyder, and there he harde how the knyght complayned unto hymselff and sayde,

'I, wofull knyght, sir Palomydes! What mysseadventure 30 befallith me that thus am defoyled with falsehed and treson, thorow sir Bors and sir Ector! Alas!' he seyde, 'why lyve I so longe?'

And than he gate his swerde in hys honde and made many straunge sygnes and tokyns, and so thorow the 35 rageynge he threw hys swerd in that fountayne. Than sir Palomydes wayled and wrange hys hondys, and at the laste, for pure sorow, he ran into that fountayne and sought aftir

9 C wold not telle S wold telle 18 C squyer ther with he abraide and brake

21 C fledde all that euer he myght vnto dame 33 C handes 34-5 C his
ragynge 37 C ranne in to that Fontayne ouer his bely and soughte (see note)

hys swerde. Than sir Trystram saw that, and ran uppon sir Palomydes and hylde hym in hys armys faste.

'What art thou,' seyde sir Palomydes, 'that holdith me so?'

'I am a man of thys foreyste that wold the none harme.'

'Alas!' seyde sir Palomydes, 'I may never wyn worship 5 where sir Trystram ys, for ever where he ys and I be, there gete I no worshyp. And yf he be away, for the moste party 217^c I have the gre, onles that sir Launcelot be there, othir ellis sir Lamerok.' Than sir Palomydes sayde, 'Onys in Irelonde sir Trystram put me to the wors, and another tyme in 10 Cornwayle and in other placis in thys londe.'

'What wolde ye do,' seyde sir Trystram, 'and ye had sir Trystram?'

'I wolde fyght with hym,' seyde sir Palomydes, 'and ease my harte upon hym. And yet, to say the sothe, sir Trystram 15 ys the jantillyste knyght in thys worlde lyvynge.'

'Sir, what woll ye do?' seyde sir Trystram, 'woll ye go with me to youre lodgynge?'

'Nay,' he seyde, 'to the Kynge with the Hondred Knyghtes, for he rescowed me frome sir Bors de Ganys 20 and sir Ector, and ellis had I bene slayne traytourly.'

And sir Trystram seyde hym such kynde wordys that sir Palomydes wente with hym to hys lodgynge. Than Governayle wente tofore and charged dame Brangwayne to go oute of the way to hir lodgynge, 'and byd ye sir 25 Persides that he make hym no quarels.'

And so they rode togodirs tyll they cam to sir Trystrams pavylon, and there had sir Palomydes all the chere that myght be had all that nyght. But in no wyse sir Trystram myght nat be knowyn with sir Palomydes. And so aftir 30 souper they yeode to reste, and sir Trystram for grete travayle slepte tylle hit was day. And sir Palomydes myght nat slepe for angwysshe, and so in the dawnyng of the day he toke hys horse prevayly and rode hys way unto Gaherys and to sir Sagramoure le Desirous, where the[y] were in 35 their pavylons, for they three were felowis at the begynnynge of the turnemente.

6-7 C there thenne gete 8-9 C there or syr 12 W seyde seyde 17
Sir not in C 19 C* Nay sayde he I wille goo to the (*In W seyde occurs at the end of a line. This may have caused the omission of I wille goo or some such words*)
26 C he S ye 29-30 C sire Palomydes myȝt not knowe what was syr Tristram

And than upon the morne the kynge blew unto the turnemente uppon the third day.

- (33) So the kynge of Northe Galis and the Kynge of the Hundred Knyghtes, they two encountird with kynge Carados and the kynge of Irelonde. And there the Kynge with the 5 217^v Hundred Knyghtes smote downe kynge Carados, and the kynge of Northe Galis smote downe the kynge of Irelonde.

So with that cam in sir Palomydes, and he made grete worke, for by hys endented shylde he was well knowyn. 10 So there cam in kynge Arthur and ded grete dedis of armys togydirs, and put the kynge of North Gales and the Kyng with the Hundred Knyghtes to the wars.

So with [this] cam in sir Trystram with hys blak shylde, and anone he justed with sir Palomydes, and there by fyne 15 force sir Trystram smote sir Palomydes over hys horse croupe. Than kynge Arthure cryed,

'Knyght with the blacke shylde, make the redy to me!'

And in the same wyse sir Trystram smote kynge Arthure.

And than by forse of kynge Arthurs knyghtes the kynge 20 and sir Palomydes were horsed agayne. Than kynge Arthur with a grete egir harte, he gate a grete speare in hys honde, and there uppon the one syde he smote sir Trystram over hys horse.

Than foote-hote sir Palomydes cam uppon sir Trystram, 25 as he was upon foote, to have overryddyn hym. Than sir Trystram was ware off hym, and stowped a lyttales asyde, and with grete ire he gate hym by the arme and pulled hym downe frome hys horse.

Than sir Palomydes lyghtly arose, and [they] daysshed 30 togydirs with theire swerdys myghtly, that many kynges, quenys, lordys and ladyes stode and behelde them. And at the last sir Trystram smote sir Palomydes uppon the helme three myghty strokes, and at every stroke that he gaff he seyde,

35 'Have thys for sir Trystramys sake!'

And with that sir Palomydes felle to the erthe grovelynge.

8-13 C With that... Soo came... With this
thenne they dasshed to gyder myghtely with their swerdes and many kynges Quenes
and lordes stode and behelde them 22 C† therupon 29-31 C and
34. C gaf hym 35 C Have not in C†

Than cam the Kynge of the Hondred Knyghtes and brought sir Trystram an horse, and so was he horsed agayne. And by that tyme was sir Palomydes horsed, and with grete ire he justed uppon sir Trystram with hys speare as hit was in the reyste, and gaff hym a grete dayssh with hys swerde. ⁵ Than sir Trystram avoyded hys speare, and gate hym by ^{218r} the nek with hys bothe hondis, and pulled hym clene oute of hys sadle, and so he bare hym afore hym the lengthe of ten spearys, and than he lete hym falle at hys adventure.

Than sir Trystram was ware of kynge Arthure with a ¹⁰ naked swerde in hys honde, and with hys speare sir Trystram ran uppon kyng Arthure. And than kyng Arthure boldly abode hym, and with hys swerde he smote ato hys speare. And therewithall sir Trystram was astooned, and so kynge Arthure gaff hym three or four strokis or he myght gete ¹⁵ oute hys swerde. And so sir Trystram drew hys swerde, and aythir of them assayled othir passyng harde, and with that the grete prease departed.

Than sir Trystram rode here and there and ded hys grete Payne, that a twelve of the good knyghtes of the bloode of ²⁰ kynge Ban that were of sir Launcelottis [kyn] that day sir Trystram smote down, that all the estatis mervayled of their grete dedis, and all people [cryede] uppon the knyght with the blacke shylde.

So thys cry was so large that sir Launcelot harde hit, and ²⁵ (34) than he gate a grete speare in hys honde and cam towardis the cry. Than sir Launcelot cryed,

'Knyght with the blacke shylde, make ye redy to juste with me!'

Whan sir Trystram harde hym sey so, he gate hys speare ³⁰ in hys honde, and ayther abeysed their hedys downe lowe and cam togydir as thundir, that sir Trystrams speare brake in pecis. And sir Launcelot by malefortune stroke sir Trystram on the syde a depe wounde nyghe to the dethe. But yet sir Trystram avoyded nat hys sadyll, and so the ³⁵ speare brake therewithall. And yete sir Trystram gate oute

¹ C kynge with the ²⁻³ C ageyn By thenne was ⁹ C thenne in the presence of hem al he lete (see note) ¹³ C atwo ¹⁴ C Tristram stonyed

¹⁵ C four grete strokis ¹⁶ C and at the last sir ¹⁷ aythir of them not in C†

²⁰ C that xi of the ²²⁻³ C* of his grete ³¹⁻² C eyther abeyshed down their

hedes and ³⁶ C ther with all sir tristram that was wounded gate oute

hys swerde, and he russhed to sir Launcelot and gaff hym three grete strokes uppon the helme, that the fyre sprange oute, that sir Launcelot abeysed hys hede low toward hys sadyll-bow. And so therewithall Trystram departed frome
 218^v 5 the fylde, for he felte hym so wounded that he wente he sholde have dyed. And sir Dynadan aspyed hym and folowed hym into the foreyste.

Than sir Launcelot abode and ded mervaylous dedys.

So whan sir Trystram was departed by the foreystis syde,
 10 he alyght and unlaced hys harneys and freysshed hys wounde. Than wente sir Dynadan that he sholde have dyed, and wepte.

'Nay, nay,' seyde sir Trystram, 'never drede you, sir Dynadan, for I am harte-hole, and of thys wounde I shall
 15 sone be hole, by the mercy of God!'

And anone sir Dynadan was ware where cam sir Palomydes rydyng streyte uppon them. Than sir Trystram was ware that sir Palomydes com to have destroyed hym, and so
 sir Dynadan gaff hym warnynge and seyde,

20 'Sir Trystram, my lorde, ye ar so sore wounded that ye may nat have ado with hym. Therefore I woll ryde agaynst hym and do to hym what I may, and yf I be slayne ye may pray for my soule. And so in the meanewhyle ye may withdraw you and go into the castell or into the foreyste, that
 25 he shall nat mete with you.'

Sir Trystram smyled, and seyde,

'I thanke you, sir Dynadan, [of your good wylle], b̄ut ye shall undirstond that I am able to handyll hym.'

And anone hastily he armed hym, and toke hys horse and
 30 a grete speare in hys honde, and seyde to sir Dynadan 'Adew', and rode toward sir Palomydes a soffte pace.

Whan sir Palomydes saw hym he alyght and made a countenaunce to amende hys horse, but he ded hit for thys cause, for he abode sir Gaherys that cam aftir hym. And
 35 whan he was com he rode towards sir Trystram.

3 C hede lowely toward 8 C'dyd many merueylous dedes 11 W dyed
 repeated in the margin in a later hand 11-12 and wepte not in C† 13-14
 C Dynadan never drede the 16 C By that sir Dynadan 27 C* Dynadan of
 your good wylle but F (MS. B.N. fr. 334 f. 247^v col. 1): quant il entendi la grant
 franchise de Dynadam et la grant debonnaireté, il li respont en seurriant: 'Dynada-
 dam, biaus amis' etc. 28 C shalle wete that 32 C† sawe that he made

Than sir Trystram sente unto sir Palomydes and re-quyred' hym to juste with hym; and if he smote downe sir Palomydes he wolde do no more to hym, and if sir Palomydes smote downe sir Trystram, he bade hym do hys utteraunce. And so they were accorded and mette to- 5 gydirs.

And sir Trystram smote downe sir Palomydes, that he 219^r had a vylaunce falle and lay styll as he had bene dede. And than sir Trystram ran uppon sir Gaherys, and he wold nat have justed, but whethir he wolde or wolde nat sir 10 Trystram smote hym over hys horse croupe, that he lay styll. And sir Trystram rode hys way and lefft sir Persides hys squyar within the pavelons.

And sir Trystram and sir Dynadan rode to an olde knyghtes place to lodge them; and thys olde knyght had 15 fyve sonnes at the turnement that prayde God hartely for their commynge home. And so, as the Freynshe booke sayeth, they com home all fyve well beatyn.

And whan sir Trystram departed into the foreyste sir Launcelot hylde allwayes the stowre lyke harde, as a man 20 araged that toke none hede to hymselff. And wyte you well there was many a noble knyght ayenste hym. And whan kyng Arthur saw sir Launcelot do so mervaylous dedis of armys he than armed hym and toke hys horse and hys armour, and rode into the fylde to helpe sir Launcelot, and 25 so many knyght[es] cam with kynge Arthur.

And to make shorte tale in conclusion, the kyng of North Galis and the Kynge of the Hondred Knyghtes were put to the wars. And bycause sir Launcelot abode and was the laste in the fylde, the pryse was gvvyn hym. But 30 sir Launcelot, nother for kynge, quene, nother knyght, wolde thereoff. And where the cry was cryed thorow the fylde,

'Sir Launcelot hath wonne the filde thys day!'

Sir Launcelot made another cry contrary,

3-4 C yf it so happend that sire Palomydes
mette 5 C accorded thenne they
8 C a greuous falle soo that he laye 10 C or not 12 C* styll
as though he had ben dede And 12-13 C Persydes squyer 16 C turnement
for whome he prayed 27 C† conclusion S conclusion 29 C† pntte S putte
31-2 C Laücelot wold neyther for kynge Qnene (S Quene) ne knyghte haue the pryce
but where 34-5 C Launcelot lete make an other crye

'Sir Trystram hath won the fylde, for he began firste, and lengyst hylde on, and so hathe he done the firste day, the secunde, and the thirde day!'

(35) Than all the astatis and degrees, hyghe and lowe, seyde [of] sir Launcelot grete worship for the honoure that he ded to sir Trystram, and for the honour doyng by sir Launcelot he was at that tyme more praysed and renownmed than [and] he had overthrowyn fyve hondred knyghtes. And all the
 219^v peple hole for hys jantilness, firste the astatis, hyghe and
 10 lowe, and after the comynalté, at onys cryed,

'Sir Launcelot hath won the gre, whosoever sayth nay!'

Than was sir Launcelot wrothe and ashamed, and so therewithall he rode to kynge Arthure.

'Alas,' seyde the kynge, 'we ar all dismayde that sir
 15 Trystram ys thus departed frome us! Pardé,' seyde kynge Arthur, 'he ys one of the nobelyst knyghtes that ever I saw holde speare in honde or swerde, and the moste curtayse knyght in hys fyghtyng. For full harde I sye hym bestad,' seyde kynge Arthure, 'whan he smote sir Palomydes uppon
 20 the helme thryse, that he abaysshed hys helme with hys strokis. And also he seyde "here ys a stroke for sir Trystram", and thus he seyde thryse.'

Than kynge Arthur and sir Launcelot and sir Dodynas le Saveage toke their horsis to seke aftir sir Trystram.
 25 And by the meanys of sir Persides, he had tolde kynge Arthure where sir Trystrams pavlylon was. But whan they cam there, sir Trystram and sir Dynadan was gone. Than kynge Arthur and sir Launcelot was hevy and returned ayen to the Castell Maydans makyng grete dole for the
 30 hurte of sir Trystram, and hys suddeyne departyng.

'So God me helpe,' seyde kynge Arthur, 'I am more hevy that I can nat mete with hym than I am for all the hurtys that all my knyghtes have had at the turnement.'

And so furthwith cam sir Gaherys and tolde kynge

1-2 C fyrst and last he hath endured and soo hath he	4 W and of degrees C
and degrees	6-7 C doyng to sir Tristram he was
10 C cryed at ones	11 C wonne the felde who soo euer saye nay
By god said	17 C spere or swerd in hand curteyst
24 aftir not in C	26 C Tristram was in his pauelione but
28 C were beny (S heuy)	32 C hym thenne for al
came sir Gaherys.	34 C Ryght soo

Arthur how sir Trystram had smytten downe sir Palomydes,
and hit was at hys owne requeste.

'Alas,' seyde kynge Arthur, 'that was grete dishonoure
to sir Palomydes, inasmuch as sir Trystram was so sore
wounded. And may we all, kyngis and knyghtes and men of 5
worship, sey that sir Trystram may be called a knyght and
one of the beste knyghtes that ever y saw dayes of my lyff.
For I woll that ye all, kyngis and knyghtes, know,' seyde
kynge Arthur, 'that I never saw knyght do so mervaylosly
as he hath done thes three dayes, for he was the firste that 10
began, and the lengyst that hylde on, save thys laste day;
and though he were hurte hit was a manly adventure of 220^r
two noble knyghtes. And whan two noble men encountir,
nedis muste the tone have the worse, lyke as God wyll
suffir at that tyme.'

15

'Sir, as for me,' seyde sir Launcelot, 'for all the londys
that ever my fadir lefft I wolde nat have hurt sir Trystram
and I had knowyn hym at that tyme that I hurte hym: for
I saw nat hys shylde. For and I had seyne hys blacke shylde,
I wolde nat have meddled with hym for many causis,' seyde 20
sir Launcelot. 'For but late he ded as muche for me as ever
ded knyght, and that ys well knowyn, that he had ado with
thirty knyghtes and no helpe only save sir Dynadan. And
one thynge shall I promyse you,' seyde sir Launcelot, 'sir
Palomydes shall repente hit, as in hys unknyghtly delynge 25
so for to folow that noble knyght that I be mysfortune hurte
hym thus.'

So sir Launcelot seyd all the worship that myght be
spokyn by sir Trystram.

Than kyng Arthure made a grete feste to all that wolde 30
com.

And thus we lat passe kynge Arthure, and a lityll we woll
turne unto sir Palomydes, that aftir he had a falle of sir
Trystram he was nerehonde araged oute of hys wytte for
despite of sir Trystram, and so he folowed hym by adven- 35
ture. And as he cam by a ryver, in hys woodnes he wolde

² C atte syr Palomydes owne request

⁴ so not in C

⁵ C and now may

⁶ C* a noble knyght

⁷ C the dayes

¹¹ C and that lengest held on sauf

¹⁶ C As for me

¹⁷ C lefte me

¹⁸⁻¹⁹ C that I hurt hym was for I sawe

²¹ but not in C

²³ only not in C

²⁴ you not in C

²⁵⁻⁶ C his vn-

kyndely delynge for

²⁶⁻⁷ C by myshap hurted thus

²⁹ C said by

have made hys horse to have lopyn over the watir, and the horse fayled footyng and felle in the ryver, wherfore sir Palomydes was adrad leste he shulde have bene drowned.

And than he avoyde hys horse and swam to the londe,
 (36) 5 and lete hys horse go downe by adventure. And whan he
 cam to the londe he toke of hys harnys and sate romynge
 and crynge as a man oute of hys mynde.

Ryght so cam a damesell evyn by sir Palomydes, that was
 sente [fro] sir Gawayne and hys brothir unto sir Mordred
 10 that lay syke in the same place with that olde knyght where
 sir Trystram was. For, as the booke seythe, sir Persides
 220^v hurte so sir Mordred a ten dayes afore, and had hit nat bene
 for the love of sir Gawayne and hys brethirn, sir Persides
 had slayne sir Mordred.

15 And so this damysell cam by sir Palomydes, and he and
 she had langage togyder, whych pleased neythir of them.
 And so thys damesell rode her wayes till she cam to that
 olde knyghtes place, and there she tolde that olde knyght
 how she mette with the woodist knyght by adventure that
 20 ever she mette withall.

‘What bare he in hys shylde?’ seyde sir Trystram.

‘Sir, hit was endented with whyght and blacke,’ seyde
 the damesell.

‘A,’ seyde sir Trystram, ‘that was Palamydes, the good
 25 knyght. For well I know hym,’ seyde sir Trystram, ‘for
 one of the beste knyghtes lyvynge in thys realme.’

Than that olde knyght toke a lityll hakeney and rode for
 sir Palomydes, and brought hym unto hys owne maner.
 And full well knew sir Trystram hym, but he sayde but
 30 lytill. For at that tyme sir Trystram was walkyng uppon hys
 feete and well amended of hi[s] hurtis, and allwayes whan
 sir Palomydes saw sir Trystram he wolde beholde hym full
 mervaylosly, and ever hym semed that he had sene hym.
 Than wolde he sey unto sir Dynadan,

35 ‘And ever I may mete with sir Trystram, he shall nat
 escape myne hondis.’

¹ C haue lepte ouer the watir *not in C*
⁹ W sente for ¹¹ C the Frensshe book
 he ¹⁶ C the whiche ²² Sir *not in C*
 but ³¹ W hir hurtis ^{C*} his hurtis

⁴ C auoyded ⁶ C rorynge
¹³ C broder ¹⁵⁻¹⁶ C she and
²⁹ C Trystram syr Palomydes

'I mervayle,' seyde sir Dynadan, 'that ye do boste behynde sir Trystram so, for hit ys but late that he was in youre hondys and ye in hys hondis. Why wolde ye nat holde hym whan ye had hym? For I saw myselff twyse or thryse that ye gate but lytyll worship of sir Trystram.'

5

Than was² sir Palomydes ashamed. So leve we them a lytyll whyle in the castell with the olde knyght sir Darras.

Now shall we speke of kynge Arthure, that seyde to sir Launcelot,

'Had nat ye bene, we had nat loste sir Trystram, for he ¹⁰ was here dayly unto the tyme ye mette with hym. And in an evyll tyme,' seyde kynge Arthure, 'ye encountred with hym.'

'My lorde Arthure,' seyde sir Launcelot, 'ye shall undir- ^{221r} stonde the cause. Ye put now uppon me that I sholde be ¹⁵ causer of hys departicion; God knowith hit was ayenste my wyll! But whan men bene hote in dedis of armys, oftyn hit ys seyne they hurte their frendis as well as their foys. And, my lorde,' seyde sir Launcelot, 'ye shall undirstonde that sir Trystram ys a man that I am ryght lothe to offende to, for ²⁰ he hath done more for me than ever y ded for hym as yet.'

But than sir Launcelot mad bryngē forthe a boke, and than seyde sir Launcleot,

'Here we ar ten knyghtes that woll swere uppon thys booke never to reste ^{one} nyght where we reste another thys ²⁵ twelve-month, untyll that we fynde sir Trystram. And as for ^{me}, seyde sir Launcelot, 'I promyse you uppon thys booke that, and I may mete with hym, other with fayrenes othir with fowlnes I shall bryngē hym to thys courte, other elles I shall dye therefore.'

30

And the namys of thes ten knyghtes that had undirtake thys queste [were these folowynge]: first was sir Launcelot; sir Ector de Marys, sir Bors de Ganys, and sir Bleoberys, sir Blamour de Ganys, sir Lucan de Butler, sir Uwayne, sir Galyhud, sir Lyonel, and sir Galyodyn. So thes ten noble ³⁵

² so not in C. ⁷ C the old castel ¹² kynge not in C ¹⁴ sir not in C
¹⁴⁻¹⁵ ye shall undirstonde the cause not in C† ¹⁵⁻¹⁶ C ben cause ¹⁷⁻¹⁸
hit ys seyne not in C ²⁰ C offende for ²³ C sir launcelot said
²⁴⁻⁵ C vpon a book ²⁸⁻⁹ C fayrenes or foulnesse ³³ C Beloberis ³⁴
C Blamor de ganys and Lucan the botteler ³⁵ C Galyhad Lyonel and
Galyodyn

knygthes departed frome the courte of kynge Arthur, and so they rode upon theirre queste togydrys tyll they com to a crosse where departed four wayes, and there departed the felyship in four to seke sir Trystram.

5 And as sir Launcelot rode, by adventure he mette with dame Brangwayne that was sente into that contrey to seke sir Trystram, and she fled as faste as her palfrey myght go. So sir Launcelot mette with her and asked why she fled.

'A, fayre knyght,' seyde dame Brangwayne, 'I fle for
10 drede of my lyff, for here folowith me sir Breuse Saunz Pité to sle me.'

'Holde you nyghe me,' seyde sir Launcelot.

And whan he sye sir Breuse Saunz Pité *(he)* cryed unto hym and seyde,

15 'False knyght, destroyer of ladyes and damesels, now thy laste dayes be com!'

221^v Whan sir Breuse Saunce Pité saw sir Launcelottis shylde he knew hit well, for at that tyme he bare nat the shylde of Cornwayle, but he bare hys owne. And than sir Breuse 20 returned and fled, and sir Launcelot folowed aftir hym. But sir Breuse was so well horsed that whan hym lyst to fle he myght fle whan he wolde and abyde whan he wolde. And than sir Launcelot returned unto dame Brangwayne, and [she] thanked sir Launcelot of hys curtesy and grete 25 laboure:

(37) Now woll we speke of sir Lucan de Butler, that by fortune he cam rydynge to the same place therreas was sir Trystram, and in he cam for none other entente but to aske herberow. Than the porter asked what was hys name.

30 'Sir, telle youre lorde that my name ys sir Lucan de Butler, a knyght of the Rounde Table.'

So the porter yode unto sir Darras, lorde of the place, and tolde hym who was there to aske herberow.

'Nay, nay,' seyde sir Daname that was nevew unto sir 35 Darras, 'sey hym that he shall nat be lodged here. But lat

10 C saunce pyte 13 C* Thenne whanne sire Launcelot sawe sir Breuse saunce pytesyr launcelot 18-19 C* the armes of 19 C* owneshelde 20 returned and *not in C* C† and syr Tristram 22-3 C myght wel flee and also abyde whan hym lyst And thenne 24 C she thanked hym of his grete 26 C Lucan the butteler 29-30 C his name Telle 30-1 C Lucan the botteler
32 C wente vnto

hym wete that I, sir Danam, woll mete with hym anone,
and byd hym make hym redy.

So sir Danam com forthe on horseback, and there they met
togydirs with spearys. And sir Lucan smote downe sir Danam
over hys horse croupe, and than he fled into that place, and 5
sir Lucan rode aftir hym [and asked after hym] many tymys.

Than sir Dynadan seyde to sir Trystram,

'Hit ys shame to se the lordys cousyne of thys place
defoyled.'

'Abyde,' seyde sir Trystram, 'and I shall redresse hit.' 10

And in the meanewhyle sir Dynadan was on horsebacke,
and he justed with sir Lucan, and he smote sir Dynadan
thorow the thycke of [the] thyghe, and so he rode hys way.
And sir Trystram was wroth that sir Dynadan was hurte,
and he folowed aftir and thought to avenge hym. And 15
within a whyle he overtoke sir Lucan and bade hym turne,
and so they mette togydirs. And sir Trystram hurte sir
Lucane passynge sore and gaff hym a falle.

So with that com sir Uwayne, a jantill knyght, and whan
he saw sir Lucan so hurte he called to sir Trystram to juste. 20 222^r

'Fayre knyght,' seyde sir Trystram, 'telle me youre name,
I requyre you.'

'Sir knyght, wite you well my name ys sir Uwayne, le
Fyze de Roy Ureyne.'

'A,' seyde sir Tristram, 'be my wylle I wolde nat have 25
ado with you at no tyme.'

'Sir, ye shall nat do so,' seyde sir Uwayne, 'but ye shall
have ado with me.'

And than sir Trystram saw none other boote but rode
ayenste hym, and overthrew sir Uwayne and hurte hym in 30
the syde, and so he departed unto hys lodgynge agayne.

And whan sir Danam undirstood that sir Trystram had
hurte sir Lucan he wolde have ryddyn aftir hym for to have
slayne hym. But sir Trystram wolde nat suffir hym.

Than sir Uwayne lete ordayne an horse-litter, and brought 35
sir Lucan to the abbay of Ganys. And the castell thereby
hyght the Castell off Ganys, of the whych sir Bleoberys was

¹² C with Lucan þe botteler & ther sir lucan smote dynadā (S smote dounē
dynada) ¹⁷ C to gyders soo that sire Tristram ¹⁸ C Lucan ²⁰ to *not in C*
C Iuste with hym ²⁴ C fyse ²⁶⁻⁷ C no tyme ye shalle not soo (*see note*)

³² C† sire Dynadan (*see note*) ³³ C hrnte S hurte C after syr Lucan for

lorde. And at that castell sir Launcelot promysed all hys felowis there to mete in the queste of sir Trystram.

So whan sir Trystram was com to hys lodgynge, there cam a damsell that tolde sir Darras that three of his sunnys 5 were slayne at that turnemente, and two grevously wounded so that they were never lyke to helpe themselff: and all thys was done by a noble knyght that bare a blacke shylde, and that was he that bare the prycce.

Than cam one and tolde sir Darras that the same knyght 10 was within hys courte that bare the blacke shylde. Than sir Darras yode unto sir Trystramys chambir, and there he founde hys shylde and shewed hit to the damesell.

'A, sir,' seyd the damesell, 'thys same ys he that slewe youre three sunnys.'

15 Than withoute ony taryynyge sir Darras put sir Tristram, sir Palomydes, and sir Dynadan within a stronge preson, and there sir Trystram was lyke to have dyed of grete syknes.

And every day sir Palomydes wolde repreve sir Trystram of olde hate betwyxt them, and ever sir Trystram spake 20 fayre and seyd lytill. But whan sir Palomydes se that sir 222^v Trystram was falle in syknes, than was he hevy for hym and comforted hym in all the beste wyse he coude.

And, as the Freynshe booke sayth, there cam fourty knyghtes to sir Darras that were of hys owne kynne, and they 25 wolde have slayne sir Trystram and hys felowis, but sir Darras wolde nat, but put them in preson, and mete and drynke they had.

So sir Trystram endured there grete Payne, for syknes had undirtake hym, and that ys the grettist Payne a presonere 30 may have. For all the whyle a presonere may have hys helth of body, he may endure undir the mercy of God and in hope of good delyveraunce; but whan syknes towchith a presoners body, than may a presonere say all welth ys hym berauffte, and than hath he cause to wayle and wepe. Ryght 35 so ded sir Trystram whan syknes had undirtake hym, for than he toke such sorow that he had allmoste slayne hymselff.

2 there not in C 3-4 C ther came 5 ther cam 10 C within hym that
 15-16 C Tristram and syre 20-1 C Palomydes sawe the fallynge of seken-
 nesse of sir Tristram thenne was he 25 C his two felawes 26 C* not suffre
 that but kepte them (see note) 33 C bo y 34 C he hath